

The City of Calgary set to install solar panels on its Bearspaw Operations Workplace Centre this spring

The City of Calgary is harnessing the power of the sun by installing a 50KW solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Bearspaw Operations Workplace Centre, located at 10010 Bearspaw Dam Road N.W. The 201-PV panel system will be the largest of its kind on a City-owned site, producing an estimated 57,000 KWh of electricity—or about 14 per cent of the total energy used on the site.

The solar-PV panels will be put on the roof of one of the site's storage buildings. Rooftop solar-PV panels, like those planned for the Bearspaw site, are safe, quiet and do not produce any glare.

Neighbours to the site may not even notice the panels are there.

Installing solar-PV panels on the Bearspaw site comes after work done in partnership with ENMAX and the University of Calgary to see whether solar power was appropriate for the site and to determine the best location for the solar PV panels. Studies related to solar energy have confirmed that solar power is a good option for partially offsetting electricity demands at Bearspaw Operations Workplace Centre.

The solar PV panel installation also follows a wind assessment project that began in 2012 to explore the potential for a small wind turbine on the Bearspaw site. The City is still collecting data and will continue to do so until 2015.

In addition to demonstrating its commitment to operating environmentally sustainable buildings with this project, The City of Calgary hopes to use the Bearspaw site as a pilot for introducing renewable energy technologies at other City-owned sites.

Questions about renewable energy at Bearspaw Operations Workplace Centre? See the Bearspaw Operations Workplace Centre wind and solar project pages on Calgary.ca or call 3-1-1.

