

In 1883, Thomas Edison threw a switch and the City of Brockton, Massachusetts, became the first place in the world with an underground electrical power system.

PELCO SYSTEM SHINES AT SOLAR

Now a new solar energy generating station in Brockton lays claim to having the latest in technology with the largest brightfield nationwide—with over 1,500 Schott-manufactured solar panels providing electricity to more than 1,000 households. Brockton recently redeveloped this former manufactured gas plant site—or brownfield—into a brightfield that converts sunlight into electricity and is anticipated to generate \$130,000 in revenue annually for the city.

“It was a contaminated site that now produces clean, safe energy,” said Carl Landerholm of Landerholm Electric Co., Inc. Landerholm oversees the total operation of the solar fields at the site, operating and maintaining all aspects of the system, including video security.

The city’s major concerns were to protect its multi-million dollar investment from vandalism while at the same time providing public safety. MAC Systems, headquartered in Canton, Massachusetts, designed and commissioned the video security system, which was an integral part of the overall brightfield plan.

“Unlike most photovoltaic installations, Brockton’s is ground-mounted, not roof mounted,” said Lori Ribeiro, City of Brockton Brightfield Project Director. “This makes it a more visible symbol of renewable energy, as well as a more attractive target for potential vandals.”

A Shining Example

“Pelco’s digital video recording system was the winning feature of our proposal,” said Conor McDavitt, Account Executive with MAC Systems. The Pelco system, which includes a



City Hall Building, Brockton, Massachusetts



ENERGY GENERATING STATION

BY DENISE S. DIESER, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS WRITER

DVR5100 digital video recorder and Camclosure dome Day/Night cameras, provides the much-needed 24-hour solution the city was looking for.

MAC Systems also decided to use the motion detection capabilities of the Pelco DVR5100, which eliminated the need for additional expensive motion detection equipment throughout the 3.7-acre unmanned site.

“There hasn’t been a single incident. Absolutely no kind of vandalism or security breach,” said Brockton Mayor Jim Harrington. “We are very happy with the system and its results. The entire system has exceeded our expectations.” The one time something was detected, it was a cat. “We all thought that was pretty funny.”

Capable of detecting movement from any of the perimeter dome cameras’ field of view, the

DVR5100 can trigger a relay causing the alarm panel to send a signal to the central monitoring station. The appropriate authorities can then be contacted to check out the site.

Brockton’s Brightfield is not only an environmental, economic, and educational asset to the community, but the aesthetics of the installation were also important to keep in mind. “So we were quite pleased that the Pelco security system that was integrated into the site included mini domes mounted onto attractive lighting fixtures,” Ribeiro said.

“One of the ways the city intends to build upon its solar leadership is by expanding the solar energy power plant to an associated brownfield across the street,” said Tom Heenan, Vice President–Business Development of MAC System. “And with this expansion of solar panels will come additional cameras.”

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