

EFR Considering Solar Power Project

Evergreen Fire/Rescue has been studying and applying energy efficiency measures over the last six years. As technologies have changed, EFR has followed those changes and implemented cost effective energy saving solutions. Two years ago, the effort turned toward the possibility of solar power offsetting the high energy costs of the ten buildings on EFR properties.

What and Why:

The installation of solar panels, coupled with the completion of the energy efficiency measures identified, have been estimated to save the taxpayers \$899,000 over 25 years. The initial investment of \$55,000 in efficiency measures is projected to be returned in savings after six years. A \$413,000 investment in solar power is projected to be returned in Xcel renewable energy credits and energy savings in 10 years. Energy efficiency measures being considered include upgraded insulation, LED lighting and a review of HVAC systems and their size and efficiency. E² Solar has been working with EFR for two years, helping to identify the panel array that would be needed, the return on investment, and the renewable energy credits from Xcel. A presentation given at the January 10, 2017 Evergreen Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting can be found at <https://evergreenfirerescue.com/efpd-board/efpd-board-topics-news/>

Next Meeting:

The EFRD Board of Directors plan on discussing this further at the February 14, 2017 meeting, with a possible decision to be made at the March 14th meeting.

From EFRD Board President John Anderson:

"I believe a District Director's paramount responsibility to the public, organization and its members is the assured creation and maintenance of an effective, efficient organization that meets or exceeds the mission-critical goals and output, expected (and paid for) by the community it serves.

Fiduciary Duty is the key-stone principle from which we all are obligated to perform. We are obligated to apply "the prudent man rule" when dealing with the public's-money and our disposition of it. Fiduciary duty is the highest standard of care imposed upon an individual willing to accept such a burden. We also are obligated by, and have a "Duty of Care" that obligates each of us to inform ourselves, prior to making a business decision, of all material information reasonably available to us.

So, as these obligations compel, and as they relate to the PV discussion, from all of the information I have seen and discussions to which I have been a part over the past year or more, I believe it is in the best interest of the organization and to the public-trust for us to invest \$415,000.00 of our capital savings into a PV system that will create (conservatively) 500% more return on our investment (.45% to 5%) and, as we have seen, quite possible twice that! Additionally, and as I have stated on several occasions, the benefit of being a good steward of our energy resources and environment is the icing-on-the-cake.

This decision is, for me, principally a fiduciary-driven, financial decision; one of little financial risk, with decades of financial returns, and environmental stewardship. I am eager to better understand the thoughts and convictions of individuals who might suggest we forgo PV and all of the benefits it appears to provide - and ask them, "specifically, convince me, why not?"