

# BJ's WHOLESALE CLUB



## THE BACKGROUND

Solar-electric power is generated from the conversion of sunlight into electricity through a photovoltaic (PV) or solar cell. Photovoltaics provide Power Naturally SM and reliably. While the initial system cost can be considerable, NYSERDA has introduced an innovative program to make PV systems

**more affordable**  
and to encourage new PV installations through qualified system installers.

## THE STORY

**BJ's Wholesale Club ([www.bjs.com](http://www.bjs.com)) is generating electricity from the sun using a photovoltaic (PV) system.** As one of the nation's earliest adopters of large commercial PV systems, BJ's is showing that solar power is a viable energy solution for businesses. Clubs in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island have PV installations. The Saratoga installation is the largest system installed in a BJ's Wholesale Club to date.

BJ's and Sun Power Electric began collaborating on rooftop PV power plants in 1998. The partnership between BJ's, NYSERDA and Sun Power Electric allows the Club to purchase cleaner power at a stable price. Instead of finding and purchasing land for the installation, BJ's took advantage of its huge roof. Sun Power Electric secures the necessary funding to acquire, design

and install the PV arrays, and uses a standardized PV installation process for "big-box" store roofs.

A sign inside the store will show customers how the PV system works and an embedded LED display will show the kilowatt-hours produced and the amount of carbon monoxide emissions avoided. The partnership between BJ's, Power Naturally, Sun Power Electric and NYSERDA's Power Naturally program Sun Power Electric shines as an example of how public and private institutions can work together to benefit the environment.

**"Using our roof for solar electric power just makes sense. It helps BJ's Wholesale Club save on utility costs and, more importantly, it allows us to do something that benefits the environment and our community."**

**-- Jim Dobial, Manager, BJ's Wholesale Club in Saratoga, NY**

**For more information call 1-866-NYSERDA  
or log on to [www.PowerNaturally.org](http://www.PowerNaturally.org)**

Thanks to the **NYSERDA Photovoltaic Incentive** program, places like the **BJ's Wholesale Club** can install affordable PV systems. It's part of **NYSERDA's** commitment to help make New York State more energy efficient.

## THE TEAM

- **NYSERDA:** funding and coordination of the photovoltaic incentive program through the **New York Energy \$mart<sup>SM</sup>** program [www.PowerNaturally.org](http://www.PowerNaturally.org).
- **Conservation Services Group's (CSG)** Sun Power Electric division designed and installed the BJ's PV system [www.csgrp.com](http://www.csgrp.com) and [www.sunpower.org/contact.htm](http://www.sunpower.org/contact.htm).

## THE SYSTEM

The 80,000-square-foot Saratoga BJ's system is comprised of 912 PV panels which covers nearly the entire roof of the store. It's a 100 kW DC system. The system cost \$700,000 and the NYSERDA incentive was \$491,192.

## THE SAVINGS

The Saratoga BJ's PV system will generate more than

**100,000**

**KiloWatt hours**

of electricity annually, enough electricity to power about 13 homes for an entire year.

Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> will be

**reduced by over 100,000 pounds annually.**

