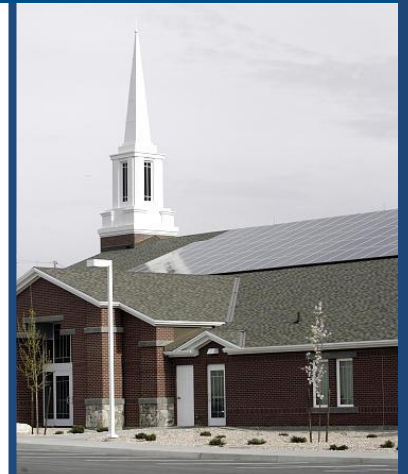




## BENEFITS OF DISTRIBUTED SOLAR ENERGY

Solar energy is one of the fastest growing energy resources in the world, providing an inexhaustible and clean source of electricity and heat. As more people adopt solar, the price continues to drop. In addition, solar provides numerous benefits to homeowners and businesses, including:

- Distributed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems provide electricity during the peak hours of the day, when demand for electricity is high. This contribution to Utah's growing energy demand can help put a downward pressure on rates and reduce the strain on the electric grid.
- Solar energy is a great asset to energy efficient buildings, helping to further reduce utility bills, provide a hedge against volatile and rising energy costs, and provide a reliable source of fuel- and emission-free clean energy year-round.
- A growing solar industry creates new jobs, local investment, and new opportunities for training and education, such as the [Salt Lake Community College Solar PV Installer Courses](#).
- Distributed solar generation can help minimize the need to build new capacity and/or defer costly upgrades to the distribution and electric grid.
- Utah's solar resource can contribute to the energy needs of our growing population. Utah's technical potential for rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) in 2010 is 5,000 MW, which could produce enough solar electricity to power approximately 730,000 Utah homes for a year.<sup>1</sup>
- Solar energy reduces our energy reliance on fossil fuels, produces no air or water pollutants, and no greenhouse gas emissions. Solar also uses little to no water, thereby saving our precious water resources.
- Solar is modular and can be sized to fit a wide array of applications and needs.
- Solar energy contributes to energy security and self-reliance.



An LDS meetinghouse in Farmington, Utah is reaping the benefits of solar energy. Credit: Jeffrey D. Allred, Deseret News

<sup>1</sup> Chaudhari, M.; Frantzis, L.; Hoff, T.E., "PV Grid Connected Market Potential in 2010 under a Cost Breakthrough Scenario," September, 2004, p. 84. Prepared by Navigant Consulting for the Energy Foundation. URL: <http://www.ef.org/documents/EFFinal-Final2.pdf>.