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First Northern Bank buildings pass solar milestone

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Solar panels installed on the roofs of [First Northern Bank](#) buildings have generated 1 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

The bank's system can generate 296 kilowatts of electricity. The system passed the 1 million kilowatt milestone Wednesday.

"We carefully weighed the decision to go solar in 2008," said **Jeremiah Smith**, the bank's executive vice president and chief financial officer. "The system is running slightly ahead of projections, and we couldn't be more pleased with the energy savings we're seeing. When the payback period ends, electricity charges are expected to drop by 60 percent where the solar panels are installed. Plus, we're doing our part to help improve the environment."

The bank started installing panels less than three years ago, and it eventually installed 1,675 photovoltaic panels for a total of 26,767 square feet on the roofs of four buildings. The panels are on two buildings in Dixon, one in Winters and one in West Sacramento.

On weekends, when the bank's energy use is very low, First Northern sells the power from its solar array to [Pacific Gas & Electric Co.](#)

Founded in 1910, the bank has branches in Dixon, Davis, West Sacramento, Fairfield, Vacaville, Winters, Woodland, downtown Sacramento, Roseville and Auburn.

Mark Anderson covers banking, finance, accounting, technology, telecom, venture capital, hospitality, tourism and restaurants for the Sacramento Business Journal.