

When it came to Solar, Jay Leno chose Premier Power



Background

When it comes to celebrity or privacy, Jay Leno, host of The Tonight Show on NBC, has found ways to enjoy both. The website for his Big Dog Garage has this opening statement: Welcome to the Big Dog Garage: "Somewhere in Southern California..."¹

Challenge

Keeping the specific location of his Big Dog Garage private is a caveat to which all vendors, suppliers and contractors must adhere when doing business with Leno's automotive collection and restoration operation. This stipulation held as true as ever regarding the installation of the Garage's first solar energy system.

Partnering with GE

Chriss Molello, West Coast Sales Manager of General Electric's Solar Energy Division, worked directly with Jay, helping him understand the garage's energy consumption, tax incentives and rebate options. With Jay onboard, Chriss began developing the project's requirements, then brought in Premier Power Renewable Energy, Inc. to design, engineer and install the garage's solar energy system and tie it to the grid.

Project Overview

Project location Burbank, CA
 System Completion October 2007
 Solar System Type. Non-Penetrating Roof Mount
 System Size 54 kW-DC

System Configuration

Total System Size in kW-DC 54kW-DC
 PV modules used 270 GE 200W modules
 Modules Tilt 16°

Performance*

Estimated annual production 78,697 kWh

Environmental benefits, annually[†]

Greenhouse gases reduction (CO₂) 123,459 lbs
 Gasoline not consumed 6,356 gallons
 Oil not consumed 130 barrels
 Cars not driven 10.3 cars
 Coal not burned 0.3 railcars

Sources:

* PW Watts Solar Energy Calculator (<http://www.pwwatts.org>)

[†] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 (<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>)

www.premierpower.com
877.939.0400

CA License# 831223

 **Premier Power**
 Your solar electricity specialists

“If people, especially here in California have this kind of roof space, it’s flat and easily accessible to solar energy, you should try and do it.”

Jay Leno, “Late night TV show” host, customer of Premier Power

Premier Power installed a 54kW roof-mounted non-penetrating racking system, which sometimes produces more electricity than the garage uses. When this happens, the electricity is sent back into the grid, making the electrical meter to spin backwards.

High Profile Project in a Low Profile Manner

“From the beginning of the project there has been an expectation for excellent work, quality and discretion,” said Molello. “Premier Power does quality work and they are professional. For the design and installation of this project, we needed someone highly professional to respect Jay’s personal life. I know that Premier Power does jobs for premier clients and they are used to doing high-profile projects in a low profile way. It is all about servicing the customer, the process and the result. As I like to say, it is not just what you get, but how you get it.”

Setting the Example

Readers of Popular Mechanics² magazine might recognize this solar energy system as the subject of one of Leno’s series of “Green Garage” articles and videos he contributes to the publication. As Leno states in the video: “This is part of our green garage concept. We’re trying to cut down on fossil fuels as much as we can. If people, especially here in California, have this kind of roof space, it’s flat and easily accessible to solar energy, you should try and do it.”

Sources:

¹ <http://www.jaylenosgarage.com/garage/index.shtml>

² http://www.popularmechanics.com/automotive/jay_leno_garage/4228638.html



Before Solar System



After Solar System



Tim Benassi with Jay Leno

www.premierpower.com
877.939.0400

CA License# 831223



Premier Power
Your solar electricity specialists