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Solar Energy Management, a solar power and energy efficiency company based in Tampa Florida has just completed the installation of a 50 KW Suniva solar power system on the SunTrust Building at 300 1st Ave South in St Petersburg. The 50KW solar power system utilizes the world’s first sprayed urethane foam distributed load attachment system. The urethane sprayed hard foam roof installed by TarHeel Roofing, a St. Petersburg based company, is the support system for the solar array stands and there are no penetrations in the roof. Since the new urethane sprayed foam roof supports the 50KW system a 30% tax credit can be utilized for the entire cost of the new roof and renewable energy system. Federal tax incentives and local power company incentives combined with Solar Energy Management competitive pricing made the ROI on the project very attractive to the owner. The 50KW Suniva system is the largest poly solar system in downtown St. Petersburg or Tampa.

The owner of the SunTrust building, Wallace Welch & Willingham Insurance, occupies the fifth floor of the 50,000 square foot building along with many other tenants. Solar Energy Management provided a full energy analysis of the building. The energy analysis establishes a cost of energy per square foot and then provides the owner a path to lower the energy costs by 40%. Part of the energy reduction was the 50KW solar power system. The client was receptive to solar power but did not like conventional ballasted or mechanically attached solar racking systems. SEM working in consort with a local structural engineer, Allen Gezelman PE, who designed the distributed load foamed-in attachment system. This innovative attachment method was presented to the directors of Wallace Welch & Willingham. It was unanimously voted that their building would be the very first in the world to implement this method of attachment for solar modules. In addition, the new spray foam urethane roof has ancillary benefits, such as adding additional insulation to the roof, and the white granular roof coating reflects heat from the sun.

Lift tests of the roof and stanchions was performed under the direct supervision of the structural engineer. Lift tests far exceeded the expectations with test results proving the solar attachment system can withstand wind loads in excess of 200 MPH!!
With Florida’s substantial rain fall, Solar Energy Management offers this solution to clients who are concerned about roof penetrations and who may need a new roof.

The combination of Progress Energy solar rebates and Federal Tax Incentives was instrumental in the decision process for WWW to proceed with this project. This resulted in the hiring of local firms such as Solar Energy Management, Tarheel Roofing, TBES, PCM Precision, Matrix Energy & Construction, all which employ local workers. SEM was very careful in the selection of vendors to use only regional material suppliers, so that the revenues remained in the US Economy and reduce the carbon footprint of the job by reducing distances materials had to be transported.

WWW progressive thinking resulted in a project that benefits, the people of the community, the planet’s CO2 levels and performance of the building…The Triple Bottom line.

Any questions call Scott McIntyre at 727/430-3043 or via email listed above.