



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Summit County Justice Center Buildings Powered by the Sun: Energy Efficiency Primary Goal**

*Park City* –In keeping with Summit County’s commitment to reduce carbon emissions, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held today for a solar photovoltaic installation on the County Justice Center Campus to both incorporate renewable energy and reduce the County’s long-term energy costs. The system came online October 12 and will produce an average of 310,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electric energy each year, roughly 20-25% of the campus’ annual usage.

Consisting of 688 solar panels, the project cost \$425,000 less a rebate from Rocky Mountain Power’s Utah Solar Incentive Program totaling \$54,000. The cost savings are anticipated to be approximately \$24,000 annually on buildings that run 24 hours a day 365 days a year. “We expect to save \$600,000 of the building’s electricity costs over the next 25 years,” said Council Chair Kim Carson. “Furthermore, the system will prevent 254 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from entering the atmosphere,” she added. It is the County’s largest solar installation and the third of its kind, with other operating solar photovoltaic installations on the Health Department and the USU extension services building.

Thanks to the expertise of Creative Energies, the contractor selected through a rigorous RFP process, the 220 kW system was designed and installed for the Justice Center Campus this past summer. The Summit County Justice Center is located at 6300 Silver Creek Drive in Park City and serves as a shared facility for the Sheriff’s Office, District, and Justice Courts. The campus recently underwent several energy efficient upgrades including the Third District Court’s 21,000 square foot remodel, mandated and paid for by the State. Several cost-saving upgrades were implemented to optimize efficiencies and reduce energy loads, including new energy efficient LED lighting throughout the building that will consume 19% less energy than required by Code and 45% less than the original fixtures contractors replaced. Other Justice Center green enhancements include Low/No-VOC finishes and the incorporation of recycled

materials into ceiling panels, insulation and counter tops.

County Council has determined environmental stewardship is a priority and has written it into their 2015-16 vision and mission statement. The solar voltaic installations are a result of their guiding policy “to ensure a positive future for our water, land and air quality.”

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