

Leveraging Solar for Better Patient Care

How DSD helped Partners HealthCare System create a solar solution that protected patients' physical and financial wellbeing on the Cape.

1,030 kWdc
system capacity

30,400 MWh
25 year output

40%
reduction in carbon
emissions by 2022

30%
savings in electricity
expenses

The Challenge

The Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, part of the Partners HealthCare System, is the only facility on Cape Cod offering hospital-level rehabilitation care. The staff and facilities have made it an asset the community can count on. So, when Spaulding decided to overhaul its energy infrastructure, it faced some uncommon challenges.

Shutting down hospital operations for the installation — which would interrupt patient services — was simply not an option. Also, since many of Spaulding's patients have trouble walking, the outside working areas had to remain pristine and safe at all times. To further complicate matters, Spaulding was in the middle of a parking lot addition that made space extremely limited. This meant that DSD had to work quickly and creatively.



Solar Creates Impact without Disruption

Founded in 1994, Partners HealthCare System includes over thirty member and affiliated hospitals in Massachusetts. As the largest employer in the state and caring for thousands of patients daily, Partners requires a lot of electricity. In 2008, Partners set out to reduce its total energy-related emissions by 40% by the end of 2022 — an ambitious goal. To overcome the challenges at Spaulding, Partners needed a partner that would transform the way the hospital harnessed energy, while remaining fully committed to its mission of "improving health inside and outside the hospital." Then they met the DSD team.

[#TransformingEnergy](#)

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The Outcome

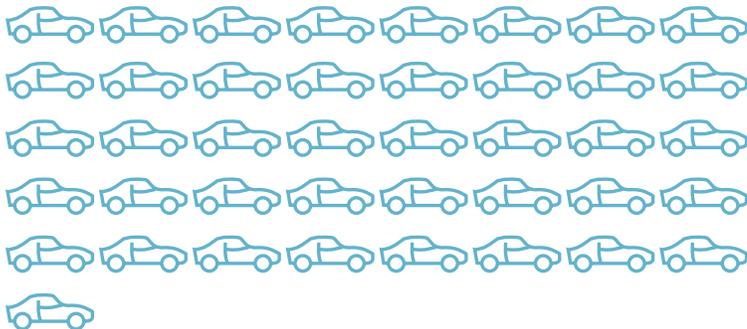
In a single day, the DSD team removed the original parking lot lights and replaced them with generator-powered temp lights, while creating protective paths for the staff and patients arriving in sub-zero temperatures that evening. By the end of the following day, the new solar canopies transformed that parking lot into a meandering architectural form — complete with welcoming lighting, protection from the elements, and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

The greater solution that followed is a marvel of ingenuity. It required the installation of a ground mount on top of a sewer system, which took creative thinking and deft navigation through local and state approval processes. The DSD team also navigated through Massachusetts' various incentive programs, providing Spaulding with every possible discount. Today, Spaulding's solar solution provides 65% of the hospital's energy — and saves the organization 30% on its electricity expenses.



Spaulding's energy reduction is equivalent to:

Taking 4,107 cars off the road each year



Each icon represents 100 cars

Planting almost 537,067 trees



Each icon represents 100,000 trees

Spaulding now enjoys a **30% savings in electricity** expenses via its solar installation.

“To live by the oath ‘do no harm,’ we must address the emissions created by our own facility. That’s why we’ve pledged to offset any negative impact we could have on the health of the community.”



Dennis Villanuev

Sr. Energy & Sustainability Manager
Partners Healthcare System Inc.

“Partners’ holistic approach — caring for patients inside, as well as the greater environment outside — really spoke to us. We’re proud to be part of their extended team.”

Firstname Lastname

Title

Distributed Solar Development (DSD)

To learn about clean-energy opportunities for your organization, please visit dsdrenewables.com/contact

