

Redefining the Solar Canopy Standard

How DSD helped MGM Springfield shatter the industry norm for clean energy production and environmental leadership.

1.382 MW
solar array

27,836
metric tons
CO² avoided

45%
reduction in carbon
emissions by 2025

10%
energy
usage offset

The Challenge

MGM Springfield, which opened in August 2018, is a beautiful and unique complex comprising multiple new and redesigned buildings within an urban landscape. Its South End Market, for example, was built out of Springfield's historic United Electric Building.

Given the diversity and complexity of the existing architecture, designing an efficient and effective solar canopy would prove to be quite a challenge. And, despite the custom build and top-tier technologies required to pull it off, DSD needed to create and install a solution that would deliver savings to MGM under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

An Ongoing Mission of Innovation

In the 1970s, The MGM Grand was the most-successful hotel and casino in Las Vegas. Back then, such an achievement would have signified "mission accomplished" for most brands. But MGM is a company with innovation running through its veins.

Which is why, over the last several decades, MGM Resorts International has grown to become an S&P 500® global entertainment company with multidimensional offerings, recognized as one of the World's Most Admired Companies® by FORTUNE® magazine.

So, when MGM sought a partner to create a solar carport for its MGM Springfield (Massachusetts) complex — to help offset carbon emissions and support a company mission of environmental leadership — it didn't want a company that was merely capable of doing the job.

It wanted a company with a singular legacy of ingenuity.



#TransformingEnergy

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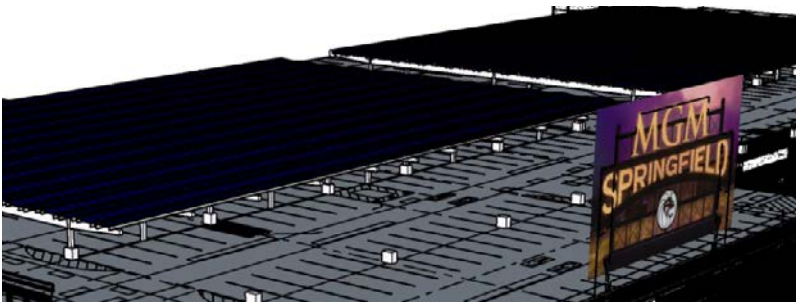
The Outcome

The dedicated DSD team worked with MGM through several design iterations, arriving at a final continuous canopy structure that covers far more area than traditional canopies — which generates an impressive amount of relative clean power.

This thoughtful custom solution integrates multiple generations of energy technologies (e.g., solar PV, co-generation, backup generators, etc.), and features innovations like a proprietary water management system that keeps customers protected from rain, ice and snow.

With an impressive capacity of 1.382 MW of solar energy, DSD's canopy offsets a percentage of overall usage sufficient to contribute to MGM Springfield's achievement of LEED Platinum status — an industry first.

Further, by financing the project through DSD's investment fund, along with leveraging state incentive programs such as SMART, MGM was able to reduce its overall energy costs.



“MGM really wanted to create something that would redefine the standard for solar canopies. We’re honored that they selected DSD to help guide them through this energy transformation.”

Ben Jones

Canopy Team Leader & Director of Engineering
Distributed Solar Development (DSD)

“DSD created a solution that was precisely what we needed, one that we couldn’t have imagined in advance.”

Michael Mathis

President
MGM Springfield

MGM Springfield is the first resort in the gaming industry to achieve LEED Platinum certification.

Fulfilling the Promise

Renewable power with fewer carbon emissions and lower costs — i.e., more for less — is the inherent promise of renewable energy ... and DSD is proud to deliver on that promise. We're also proud to work with partners who share this vision of what clean energy can mean for the future.

"We believe that environmental leadership is critical to ensuring the long-term viability of corporations — and our planet," says Michael Mathis, President, MGM Springfield. "DSD was selected as the partner due to the 125-year history of GE in the power generation business, and its making sustainability and renewable energy a cornerstone of its business. We are grateful for the partnership. DSD created a solution that was precisely what we needed, one that we couldn't have imagined in advance."

"MGM is committed to preserving the environment through climate leadership, sustainable design and construction, and responsible operating practices," Mathis says. "DSD understands, as we do, that when we focus on what matters, we can have real impact on the growth and sustainability of our community."

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

