

## AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER SOLAR ENERGY FACT SHEET

- Through a mix of on-site solar panels and Austin Energy's Green Choice Program, the Austin Convention Center is powered by 100% Renewable Energy.
- The Austin Convention Center Green Exhibit Room highlights the facility's involvement in the testing of new solar inverter technologies for solar power collection.
- An additional 100kw of solar was installed in 2011, as a part of the federal stimulus package, on the facility's north side (over Meeting Room 12).

### SOLAR ENERGY ARRAYS

**Austin Convention Center has two sets of PV (photovoltaic) Arrays for solar energy:**

**1. Solar Energy Arrays – Outside Trinity Street Atrium**

The energy provided by the PV Arrays outside of the Atrium produce feedback to a panel and into the building for general use.

**2. Solar Energy Arrays – Inside Service Yard**

The PV Arrays in the service yard serve as a testing ground for new solar inverter technology. (Details below.)

### Ideal Power Convertors Selects the Austin Convention Center for Pilot Test of IPC's Early Prototype PV Solar Inverter

- Ideal Power Convertors (IPC) has developed and patented a new electronic power converter technology.
- IPC received funding to develop and commercialize their initial product, a 30kW PV inverter. A key step in IPC's development process was pilot testing of its early prototype on a large PV array.
  - The Austin Convention Center and Austin Energy cooperated closely with IPC to enable the firm to begin early testing of its PV inverter prototype.
  - IPC announced its successful pilot test with the Austin Convention Center at the ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit in Washington on February 28, 2011.
- The IPC PV inverter pilot test at the Austin Convention Center uses a PV array that was commissioned in 1991.
  - Although additional engineering work was required by IPC, with the installation of the solar inverter, the original PV modules are successfully generating power again for the Austin Convention Center. (*The original PV inverter failed many years ago, and the PV modules had not been generating power since.*)
- Austin Energy and the City of Austin had sufficient experience and the regulatory flexibility to enable this early pilot test, which may not have been possible anywhere else in the USA.

--Source of information from official IPC documents, 2011.