

Utah Travelers Ride in Solar Style

CHALLENGE

Avoid the safety risks of high-voltage direct current (DC) solar at a public transportation site

SOLUTION

Utilize the Enphase System to produce only alternating current (AC) on the roof

RESULT

Generates enough power to operate all electric systems

Enlighten monitoring engages ridership with system insights



“String inverters and other micros can’t compete in this context. Enphase delivers.”

—Marc Staker
Project Manager
Sunlight Solar Systems

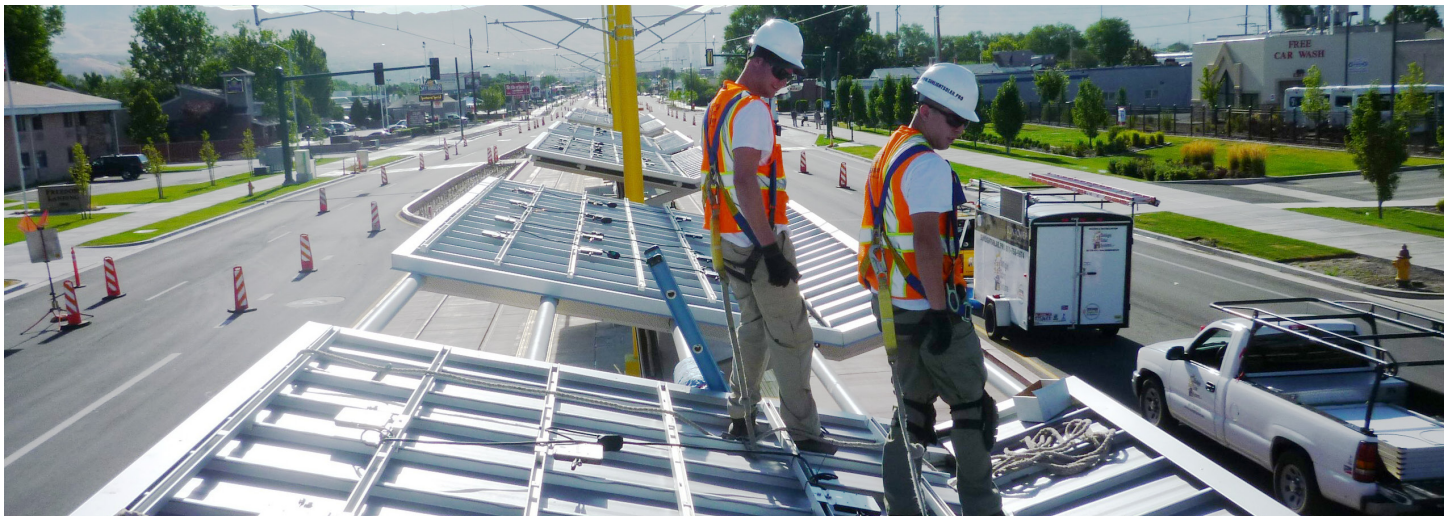
A new 6-mile light rail allows Utah travelers to avoid the extra fee and hassle of airport traffic and overnight parking by connecting passengers from Salt Lake City’s downtown hub to the airport.

Utility Grants Eliminate Expenses

When the Utah Transit Authority decided it was time to turn to solar, they turned to Rocky Mountain Power, Utah’s main utility provider, for help with the project’s expensive funding. Through the utility’s Blue Sky Renewable Energy, a program dedicated to bringing clean energy facilities to the community, UTA was granted \$400,000—enough to cover the cost of this project and more.

When the time came to begin construction, three bidding contractors presented their design to UTA, and all three proposed the Enphase System.

Sunlight Solar installed the 67.6kW rooftop system on four of eight UTA Airport Light Rail platforms. Each platform consists of 72 Enphase microinverters



Each platform generates enough power to fully operate all functions of the stop, including lighting, ticket machines, and electrical outlets.

matched with 235W modules and generates enough power to fully operate all functions of the stop, including lighting, ticket machines, and electrical outlets.

Integrated Technology and Safety Drive Decision

Given that the canopies design required all solar equipment to be situated on the rooftop, choosing microinverters made perfect sense. However, it wasn't the microinverters alone that made Enphase the favored option: Enlighten monitoring was also highly desirable. In order to accept the money from Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky program, precision solar monitoring is required, which made the Enphase System all the more attractive given its integrated monitoring.

Located on the site's platform stops are four 32-inch, high resolution outdoor monitors, which display the Enlighten website. While waiting for their train, passengers can check the monitors to track the production value of each panel, increasing public awareness of the benefits of solar while providing module-level insight into the system.

Being a public transportation site, safety issues were top of mind for the UTA. Working in conjunction with Rocky Mountain Power's guidelines, the system's disconnect allows fire and safety personnel to securely switch all power off if needed. "Having the AC come off the roof instead of high-voltage DC lines was key in decreasing safety risks. Essentially, we could treat it as a regular electrical device—power in, power out," said Staker.

To learn more about the benefits of the Enphase System, visit enphase.com/commercial.

INSTALLATION SUMMARY

Client **Utah Transit Authority – Airport Light Rail**

Location **Salt Lake City, UT**

Installer **Sunlight Solar System**

System Size **67.6kW**

Microinverters **288 Enphase M215's**

Modules **Scott 235W**

Changing the Commercial Mindset

Entering the solar industry five years ago, Sunlight Solar believes solar power is the fastest growing solution for businesses to reduce their dependency on the electrical grid. Long-time proponents of microinverters, Sunlight Solar has installed over 60 sites using the Enphase System. While the majority of these are residential, Sunlight Solar pushes to bring microinverters into the commercial field.

"Although most commercial sites are string inverter centered, the UTA Light Rail gave us confidence to use Enphase in more commercial systems. We trust that an Enphase commercial trend will work really well for our customers," said Staker

About Enphase Energy

Enphase Energy is the world's leading microinverter systems provider, pursuing unique, high-tech innovations to continually advance the performance and intelligence of residential and commercial solar energy systems.