



News release

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Flint Hills Resources becomes first US refinery and largest manufacturing facility to be significantly powered by onsite solar energy

45-megawatt solar complex is the largest in the United States dedicated to powering a single facility

Rosemount, Minn. – Flint Hills Resources gathered with project partners, employees and local officials today to mark the commissioning of a new 45-megawatt solar installation that provides power to the company’s Pine Bend refinery. With more than 120,000 solar panels located on 350 acres of land adjacent to the refinery, the \$75 million project is the largest of its kind in the United States and will be used exclusively to power the Pine Bend refinery.

Under optimal conditions, the panels are expected to generate up to 45 megawatts of power or approximately 30% of the refinery’s power needs, which is the equivalent of powering more than 8,400 homes each year. The installation will help Pine Bend augment its power supply, lower production costs, improve the efficiency of its operations and lower the facility’s emissions. Located south of the Twin Cities, the refinery operates continuously and supplies the majority of Minnesota’s and much of the Upper Midwest’s gasoline, diesel and jet fuel as well as heating fuels, asphalt, fertilizer and the chemical-building blocks for numerous other everyday products.

“This largest-of-its kind solar installation is helping us improve our competitiveness by lowering our energy costs and improving our energy efficiency, making us one of the most energy efficient refineries in the nation,” said Geoff Glasrud, vice president and manufacturing manager for Flint Hills Resources. “Solar also helps us further reduce emissions associated with producing the fuels and other essential products we make that people across the state and the Upper Midwest rely on every day. We’re proud to be the first refinery and largest manufacturing facility to utilize solar at this scale.”

Construction of the solar installation began in November 2022. DEPCOM Power served as the project’s engineering, procurement and construction contractor. Leaders from the Scottsdale, Arizona-based energy solutions firm joined Flint Hills Resources for today’s commissioning event.

“This is DEPCOM’s first significant ‘behind the meter’ project where we designed and built a large solar complex to power a single facility, in this case an oil refinery. And not just any oil refinery, but a refinery

that is responsible for producing the vast majority of the fuels the people of Minnesota depend on every day, a place where reliability really matters,” said Darrell Birck, DEPCOM’s Senior Vice President of Operations. “We are seeing more of these types of projects being proposed across the U.S. but it’s thrilling to be able to say we were among the first to do anything like this at this scale. We are proving that solar is a reliable, cost-competitive, emission-free source of power.”

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend is one of the most energy efficient refineries in the country. The facility has been ENERGY STAR® certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency four years in a row. In addition to the solar project, the company installed a combined heat and power system in 2019 that supplies enough electricity to power up to 40% of refinery operations. Other recent enhancements include adding two modernized cooling towers, which reduce energy consumption and leveraging ammonium thiosulfate technology, which creates fertilizer while producing ultra-low sulfur gasoline to lower vehicle emissions.

Flint Hills Resources is partnering with Friends of the Mississippi River and the University of Minnesota to establish pollinator-friendly habitat for the solar complex, while also testing alternative cover crops for certain agricultural uses. More than 600 acres of Flint Hills Resources’ property along the Mississippi River is the first in the Twin Cities and currently the only in Minnesota that is Gold Certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council. The solar complex will establish a new area west of the refinery for habitat development.

[Click here](#) to view photos of today’s event and videos of the solar installation.

About Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery

The Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota’s gasoline, diesel fuel and jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a refining capacity of 375,000 barrels per day and is among the most efficient and safest oil refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs. With 1,000 full-time employees, Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the Pine Bend refinery is available at PineBendRefinery.com.

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