

The U.S. Military Opens Its Biggest Solar Array

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The U.S. Department of Defense opened its biggest solar array. This 16.4 megawatt solar farm located at David-Monthan Air Force Base in Tuscon, Arizona, will deliver 35% of the base's electricity needs and is projected to cut energy costs by \$500,000 a year. The project is part of the U.S. Air Force effort to acquire 25% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025. The Air Force spends over \$9 billion annually on electricity and fuel costs, making it the largest consumer of energy in the U.S. federal government. The project, which includes a 25-year power purchase agreement with SunEdison, demonstrates benefits of public-private partnerships which were vital to financing construction of the array, allowing the air force base to acquire solar power at little or no upfront cost. Pew Charitable Trusts' [recent research](#) found that around 80% of future DoD renewable energy projects will be conducted through power purchase agreements similar to the one at David-Monthan. In other words, projects "that rely on private developers to finance, build, and maintain projects while saving military bases money over the life of the contract." Read

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directly from the Pew website.