



NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD CASE STUDY

Camp Venture, Inc. – *Honored for its commitment to incorporate green building practices into the renovation of four new residences for developmentally disabled children and adults*

SUMMARY

Camp Venture, Inc., awarded in 2009, is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation in Rockland County that provides care and services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. The agency operates 24 certified community residences licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) to serve developmentally disabled children and adults.

During 2008, Camp Venture, Inc. opened four new residences that incorporated sustainable



building designs. The residence at Sidney Drive received approval from OMRDD to include a photovoltaic (solar) system as part of the green design.

BENEFITS

Green building practices included increasing insulation, installing occupancy sensors, using high-efficiency lighting systems, installing low-flow toilets and purchasing Energy Star™ appliances. Sustainable management practices were adopted as well. The Sidney Drive location was the first among 5,995 community residences in New York to be equipped with solar power. To achieve these benefits, Camp Venture partnered with OMRDD and NYSERDA.

KEY METRICS

- 6,036 lbs. of CO₂ reduced
- 200,000 lbs. of CO₂ reduced over the next 30 years
- 3,551 Kw of power created through solar power
- 130 Kw of power annually for six solar applications are currently being installed

ABOUT CAMP VENTURE

- 24 community residences
- 1,400 disabled children and adults served annually

NYS Environmental Excellence Award: Annual recognition of outstanding innovative and sustainable projects or programs and unique partnerships that are improving and protecting New York State's environmental resources and contributing to a stronger economy

A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

- Evaluated all buildings with NYSERDA energy studies to reduce electrical use
- Installing six new PV systems in residences
- The first among NYS group homes to have a community residence equipped with a photovoltaic system
- Community gardens are tended by the residents
- Working toward eliminating paper products and toxic chemicals
- Community cleanups
- Using NYSERDA rebate for photovoltaic system
- Eliminating bottled water and using water filtration systems
- Educating employees about greener practices

HIGHLIGHTS

Camp Venture, Inc. is committed to environmental excellence and formed a “Green Committee” that established environmentally friendly practices, such as using green cleaning products, reducing paper use and eliminating bottled water in favor of tap water. Educating its 600 employees about greener practices, Camp Venture has developed its own environmental ethics at all 24 certified community residences.

In its first year, the solar panel on the Sidney Drive residence generated 3,555 kWh of power and reduced CO₂ emissions by more than 6,000 pounds. These benefits are projected to continue for the life expectancy of the panels, which is more than 30 years.

Camp Venture, Inc. set the bar for environmental excellence in their sector. The agency was recycling before mandates were established and adopted green building and sustainable management practices before other residential care facilities. In addition, the agency offered residents the opportunity to tend to community gardens, participate in community cleanups and help eliminate the use of paper products and toxic chemicals.

FUNDING

The total renovation for the Sidney Drive residence was done within a budget of \$180,000, including the cost of the photovoltaic system. Camp Venture received a NYSERDA rebate, making the cost of the system approximately \$14,900.