

# Paso Robles Daily News

## Southgate Center flips the switch on new commercial solar system

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—Local real estate developer, [Covelop Inc.](#), and the other owners of the Southgate Center in Paso Robles, flipped the switch on a newly installed 1,300 panel 500-Kilowatt rooftop solar installation. “We were very pleased to work with Wicks Solar on such a significant project, one of the largest in Paso Robles,” said Damien Mavis of Covelop, Inc. “They are a local company that has been around for 35 years, and has the electrical engineering and the manpower to pull off a project this large.”

Located at 1650 Ramada Drive, the Southgate Center is the recently renovated former [Paris Precision](#) Products building. The renovation and reposition, led by Covelop, Inc., transformed the 200,000 sf. vacant factory into a Class-A, multi-tenant light industrial facility. “The final step of our business plan was the installation of the solar system,” said Mavis. “This system truly creates a win for the property owners by increasing the value of their asset, a win for the tenants by reducing their energy cost, and a significant win for the environment. Here on the central coast of California, buildings contribute almost 40-percent of all carbon emissions. Installing solar helps to offset these impacts.”

The solar energy generated from the system was designed to cover 100-percent of the buildings’ energy consumption needs, with the project generating an estimated 704,660 kwh of renewable electricity per year, with a total system size of 500kWh.

The positive environmental impact of this commercial system is the equivalent of:

- Planting 141,194 trees in a forest twice the size as the Portola Redwoods State Park
- Removing 4,065 tons of CO2 pollution from the air we breathe

- Removing 80 million cubic feet of CO2 from our atmosphere
- Removing 35 pollution causing daily commuters from our streets for 25 years
- Removing enough road miles to drive to the moon and back 21 times
- Fully charging over 700 million iPhones

The CEO of Wicks Solar, Jared Bobb, said: “We really enjoyed working with Covelop on this project. Our commercial clients are coming to us because they have a commitment to sustainable practices and are fed up with the steady rate increases; everyone knows there is no end in sight for 6-11-percent rate increases each year, year over year, for many years to come. It is anyone’s guess how high rates can and will go.”

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