

Case Study



Mesquite Village West Residence Hall, Texas A&M University – Kingsville Kingsville, Texas

Cinco Solar, Inc., an award-winning solar water heating designer and installer based near San Antonio, Texas, has completed a project at the newest residence hall at Texas A&M University – Kingsville. The new building, the Mesquite Village West Residence Hall, is scheduled to host its first occupants in the fall 2011 semester. The 98,000 square foot building will serve as home to the University's new Honors College and will provide housing for approximately 300 students in suite-style apartments.

The state-of-the-art solar water heating installation is the first of its kind on the Texas A&M – Kingsville campus and provides practical, meaningful results to its residents and to the campus community. Commissioned in July of 2011, Cinco Solar's system uses 66 evacuated tube solar thermal collectors to generate domestic hot water for the four-story facility. The solar collectors are installed in three separate arrays on the south-facing and west-facing roof tops and will generate enough hot water to drastically reduce the building's energy expenses. Solar collectors harvest energy from the sun throughout the day and store that energy in three large storage tanks. When the building requires hot water, it is drawn from the heated tanks and put to use inside the building. A sophisticated control system was designed and installed by Cinco Solar to maximize the efficiency and performance of the system.

At the time of commissioning, Texas A&M University – Kingsville's solar water heating installation was one of the largest evacuated tube solar thermal systems in Texas.

Facts about Cinco Solar's system:

- 66 evacuated tube solar thermal collectors installed
- Produces as much as 80% of the domestic hot water for the four-story facility
- Services 300 residents in suite-style apartment units
- Generates an estimated annual production of over 960 million BTU's of heat
- Heats three 1000 gallon storage tanks to nearly 190 degrees Fahrenheit
- Custom-built control system maximizes solar system performance and provides convenient user interface through a touch-screen display monitor
- One of the largest evacuated tube solar thermal systems in the state of Texas

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Cinco Solar, Inc., was founded in 2007 and is based near San Antonio, Texas. Cinco Solar uses state-of-the-art evacuated tube technology to provide solar water heating solutions on a commercial, industrial, or institutional scale. Solar thermal systems are a natural fit to provide hot water for any facility or process that uses large amounts of hot water. Applications include, but are not limited to, domestic hot water, process heat, building heating and AC dehumidification and reheat. Properly sized, Cinco Solar's solar thermal systems can typically eliminate 80% of the energy costs associated with producing hot water.

Texas A&M University – Kingsville opened its doors in 1925 and became a part of the Texas A&M system in 1989. Texas A&M - Kingsville proudly claims itself as "South Texas' greatest university, offering more academic programs and degrees, providing better learning and living facilities, doing more research, awarding more scholarships and producing more successful graduates than any other college or university in the region." The architect for this residence hall project is BOKA Powell and the general contractor is SpawGlass.

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