

Solar Thermal Case Study

College Dining Facility - J.R. Pierce Plumbing



Location: Davis, CA

System Type: Drainback Commercial Hot Water

Building Use: College Dining Facility

Designed & Installed By: J.R. Pierce Plumbing Company, Inc.



System Description: The Oxford dining facility at the University of California - Davis uses 23 Apricus AP-30 collectors in a drainback configuration to preheat water before it enters the high efficiency boilers. The system, designed and installed by J.R. Pierce plumbing, was designed to offset 10% of the buildings total energy consumption.

Feedback: The University design was looking to upgrade the building to achieve LEED silver status and found that most solar companies could not find a way to lay out collectors with the scattered mechanical equipment on the roof. J.R. Pierce found a solution by building a metal roof to protect the water heating equipment and then place the collectors on a metal frame above the other mechanical equipment. In doing so, the solar water heating system helped the building reach a higher mark, LEED gold.

