

Bella Energy installs 10 kilowatt solar system on automotive garage Élan Motorsport in North Boulder
A reasonable \$ investment, an \$80,000 asset

Success Stories – October 2008

Boulder, CO 2008 - Bella Energy, a Boulder based solar energy company that installs and maintains solar energy systems in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region, has installed a 10 kilowatt solar system on Élan Motorsport automotive garage as a banner-sized statement for doing the right thing.

Dan Venturella started automotive service and repair garage Élan Motorsport in 1981 and chose the name “Élan” because it relayed what he felt about cars. Élan is a vigorous spirit with verve, poise and liveliness of the imagination. When it came to imagining putting in a 10 kilowatt solar system, Dan Venturella “juggled it and juggled it in my mind for about two years and ultimately solar made too much sense.”

Good financial sense. Venturella said, “Mechanics don’t make decisions on impulse, everything has to line up. My solar system provides equity. For a reasonable investment I got an \$80,000 asset on my building, with fixed energy costs for the future and I will soon receive federal and Xcel Energy rebates.”

Élan Motorsport was already practicing green business recycling oil and metals, refrigerant fluids, cardboard and plastics, using bulk fluids, selling recycled antifreeze and designing their garage using passive solar principles. “The entire south facing wall is glass. Our heater hardly ever comes on in the winter the sun is so warm,” said Venturella. The new solar system is mounted like a banner over the garage entrance, a statement that even a regular business like an auto garage can commit to reducing its energy consumption.

The 10 kilowatt system will produce about 15,000 kilowatt hours per year, about 80% of Élan Motorsport’s electricity. “This system is built to resist Boulder’s strong winds. It’s tilted at 30 degrees to get maximum sun exposure making it eight feet tall at the back, so Bella Energy’s engineers installed the panels using a heavy steel mounting frame bolted through the entire roof,” said John Shaw, Project Engineer for Bella Energy.

“Those big solar panels will be up there on our roof for the next few decades, making kilowatts and never going out of style!” said Venturella.

Bella Energy (formally Sun Electric Systems) provides total energy system design for residential and commercial buildings, specializing in architecturally integrated renewable energy systems. Bella Energy managers have more than 80 years of combined solar design expertise. Projects include multi-family housing, commercial and high-end residential buildings. With offices in Fort Collins, Boulder, Carbondale, Colorado Springs and Durango, Bella Energy installs projects all over the Rocky Mountain region. bellaenergy.com

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