

Energy-saving roof helps bank save money

Far from the staid image of the typical financial institution, the Valley National Bank has always been progressive. So when the roof of their corporate headquarters needed replacing, vice president of facility management Scott Watkowski saw it as the perfect time to evaluate solar energy as well.

A former energy engineer and avid supporter of green building initiatives, Watkowski researched roofing and solar combinations, costs and ROI. After carefully crunching the numbers (hey, he's still a banker), he selected an innovative system offered by Pfister Energy that combined a SOPREMA replacement roof with Uni-Solar solar panels.

Uni-Solar is the leading producer of thin film photovoltaic laminates that lay flat on the roof. Although sig-

nificantly lighter than traditional glass panels, these flexible solar panels are strong enough to be walked on. Uni-Solar then teamed up with SOPREMA. Together, they offered a completely integrated solar roofing system that protects buildings against weather, while generating power when the sun shines.

Pfister Energy performed the installation. Following removal of the existing roofing material, the crew first installed a smooth, base-ply membrane of Sopralene Flam 180 and then installed the second cap ply membrane of polyester-reinforced Sopralene Flam 180 FR GR White. After the roofing installation was inspected and approved by a SOPREMA field tech representative, the Pfister Energy crew applied a cold epoxy resin and carefully adhered the

Uni-Solar solar panels.

"In addition to the aesthetic benefits of a solar array integrated with the roofing system, the single 20-year warranty through the SOPREMA/Uni-Solar partnership covers both the roof and the solar panels," says Wayne Pfisterer, president of Pfister Energy. "The bank knows that if there ever is a problem with either roof or panels or both, there won't be any finger pointing between the manufacturers and the installer. We all work as one."

A 20-year warranty that covers both roof and solar panels is great—but what about the energy savings? "We are not only reducing our electricity costs," Scott reports, "We are actually earning New Jersey

Contractor: Pfister Energy
Project Size: 22,425 Sq. Ft.
Project Length: March — July, 2005
Deck Type: Steel
Insulation: Existing EPS/Dens Deck
Base Ply: Sopralene Flam 180
Top Ply: Sopralene Flam 180 FR GR (White)

Renewable Energy Certificates that generate income for the bank. With the produced power and state credits, our integrated solar roofing system will pay for itself in less than eight years. With a system life expectancy of 30 years, we're looking forward to a quality roof that protects our building and generates returns for 20-25 years."

For more information, call SOPREMA at 800-356-3521.. ■

