



DEA's EPIC Solar Project

**Mike Sandler, Energy Program Manager
Drug Enforcement Administration
ISWG February 2020**

About DEA



- ▶ DEA's Environmental Management Section (separate from Facilities)
- ▶ 3 owned facilities, including the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)
- ▶ No solar projects prior to 2013
- ▶ Motivated by Executive Orders, OMB Sustainability Scorecard, GHG Inventory



The Evolution of EPIC Solar 2013-2015



- ▶ 2014 proposal for solar carports.
- ▶ 2015 proposal for 700 kW of ground-mounted solar and 88kW on 2 existing carports.
- ▶ Awarded \$720,000 DOE AFFECT grant in FY 2015.
- ▶ IGA showed solar PV project size could be increased to 2.47 MW
- ▶ Approved by EPIC Director, Ft. Bliss, Rio Grande Electric Coop, DEA Facilities
- ▶ Estimated to produce 80% or more of EPIC's electricity
- ▶ Also lighting and water Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) included



EPIC Solar's Performance Contract



- ▶ ESPC ENABLE for Lighting, Water Upgrades
 - ▶ LED lights save \$27,000 per year
 - ▶ Faucet aerators save \$1,200 per year
 - ▶ 21 year payback

- ▶ ESPC ESA for Solar PV
 - ▶ Allows ESCO to retain ownership of panels, take 30% Investment Tax Credit
 - ▶ Saved \$1 million over typical approach
 - ▶ ESCO provides O&M, addressing Agency O&M cost concerns



Forming Project Working Group



- ▶ Management
- ▶ Project Lead/ Program Office
- ▶ Site Facilities Manager
- ▶ DOE Support/ Project Facilitator

- ▶ Working Group Partners:
 - ▶ Contracting Office
 - ▶ Finance
 - ▶ HQ Facilities Office
 - ▶ Others as needed (Chief Counsel's Office, etc.)



Overcoming Barriers



Technology

- ▶ Grid Interconnection (No, the lights will not go out on a cloudy day.)
- ▶ LED lights (Address complaints with dimmer switches, etc.)

Operational

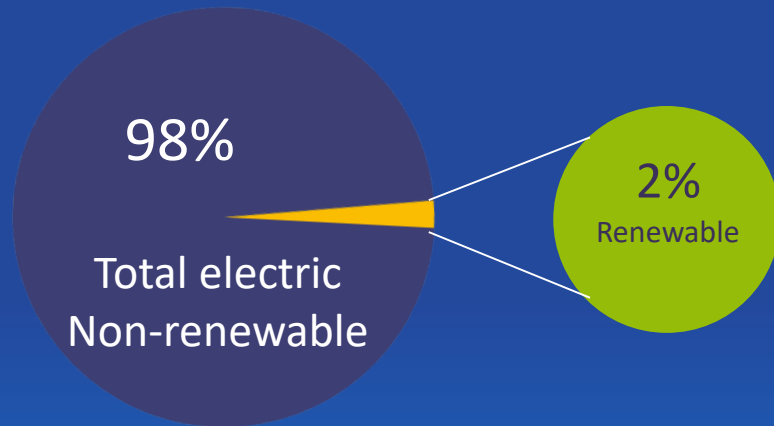
- ▶ How will the project affect the mission?
- ▶ O&M: Is this in their job description?
- ▶ Finance: Does it “fit in the box”?



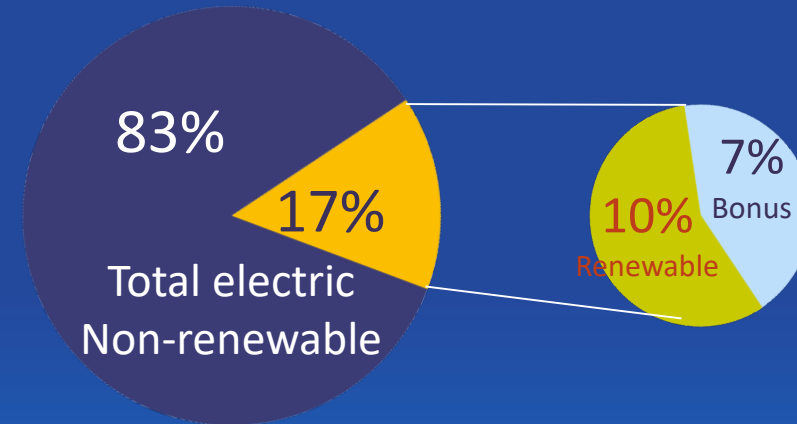
DEA Agency-wide Renewable Energy



Before EPIC Solar
2% Renewable Energy



After EPIC Solar
17% Renewable Energy



During and After the Project



- ▶ Identify champions: Supportive onsite personnel and management
- ▶ Generate enthusiasm, apply for awards
- ▶ DOE FEMP and NREL for Case Studies and Best Practices



Thank you!



Mike Sandler,
Energy Program Manager
Drug Enforcement Administration
Michael.J.Sandler@usdoj.gov

