



# Engineering Energy Solutions for Better Education

How DSD helped CSCU improve the student experience, and reduce costs, with a multi-campus solar energy solution.

**30%**  
average energy offset per campus

**\$15M**  
total savings over 20 years

**8,879,831 kWh**  
produced annually

**6,118**  
metric tons avoided carbon emissions

## The Challenge

The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) consists of 12 community colleges, four state universities, and one online college. CSCU strives to sustain and enhance the education quality, affordability and accessibility for all who attend. So, when the organization wanted to increase its campus energy independence, its leaders needed a solar partner that would engineer the most valuable solutions — to pass those savings on to the students.

CSCU selected DSD to help realize some ambitious sustainability goals. The project would include 9 of CSCU's community college campuses, with a projected goal of 30% average energy offset per campus. To achieve these immediate savings goals, and be able to sustain savings for years to come, DSD worked closely with CSCU to stabilize the campus' power supply and help transition to locally sourced, clean energy.



*Connecticut State  
Colleges & Universities*

## Potential Realized.

CSCU's mission is to "provide affordable, innovative and rigorous programs for students to achieve their personal and career goals, as well as contribute to the economic growth of Connecticut." CSCU has roughly 85,000 students and graduates 15,000 per year. To keep quality of campus life high and costs low, they needed an energy solution built at the micro and macro levels. They need a multi-faceted set of answers that, collectively, would realize the full potential of what the campuses could do.



# The Outcome

The key to cracking this challenge was analyzing each unique campus and considering their respective opportunities. For example, Manchester Community College (MCC), the largest energy system within the CSCU system, comprises a diverse collection of buildings and open spaces. DSD designed, developed and installed a combination ground-mount, rooftop and carport system, which now provides 45% of the school's energy usage and saves approximately \$220,000 per year.

All told, DSD installed an aggregate system of 11.5 megawatts (MW) across 9 colleges. Now, because of this comprehensive solar energy initiative, CSCU's traditional energy sources are offset by an estimated 30% annually — and will generate an estimated \$15 million in savings over 20 years.



**The clean solar energy utilized on CSCU's campuses is equivalent to:**  
That which would power 1,202 homes.



Each icon represents 10 homes

**The solar array created for Manchester Community College yields 45% of the school's total energy usage.**

**“Modernizing our campuses improves the overall student experience and our ability to work with local businesses.”**

**Mark Ojakian**

President  
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU)

**“CSCU is a great example of how locally sourced clean energy can provide savings, while supporting sustainability goals and helping stabilize a cross-campus power supply.”**

**Erik Schiemann**

CEO  
Distributed Solar Development (DSD)

To learn about clean-energy opportunities for your organization, please visit [dsdrenewables.com/contact](https://dsdrenewables.com/contact)

