

Parking lot produces power

Envision Solar's parking structure at Kyocera's U.S. headquarters in Kearny Mesa is getting a lot of attention.

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The San Diego-based concern has met with quite a few businesses in San Diego and Orange counties that are interested in incorporating parking structures that generate solar energy similar to the design used at Kyocera, an international technology company.

Currently, the Solar Grove — a parking lot canopied with arrays of solar panels on top — is serving as a model of success. The "solar tree" grove is producing more energy than estimated, 427,000-kilowatt hours or enough to power 68 homes for a year.

There are 25 solar trees and each provides shade for eight to 10 vehicles.

Envision Solar President Bob Noble said he has been swamped with requests for information and requests for proposals for projects both big and small.

In addition, Envision is in the design stages of a smaller Solar Grove for residential and light commercial use. The product, called LifePort, will resemble a traditional carport and be constructed of light gauge steel.