

# HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Case Study

**Organization name:** AdventHealth

**Organization tax status:** Tax-exempt not-for-profit

**Facility name:** AdventHealth Corporate Campus

**Facility location:** Altamonte Springs, Florida

**Brief description of facility:** The faith-based health system’s corporate campus provides meeting and workspace for more than 2,000 team members who work to support the system’s operations and 95,000+ employees across 50+ hospitals across the country.



## The Project

**Brief description of project partially financed by the IRA:**

This project is a 3-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) system, comprised of over 7,500 solar panels. The system will encompass four building rooftops, two parking garages, and multiple solar canopies throughout the surface parking lot. Additionally, the campus will feature 31 dual-port electric vehicle charging stations. Upon completion, projected by the end of 2024, the solar PV installation at the AdventHealth Corporate Campus will be one of the largest privately owned solar projects in Florida.

**IRA funding mechanism(s):**

Investment Tax Credit for Energy Property.

**Projected benefits of the project:**

Once operational, the system will provide approximately 30% of the electricity needed to support the AdventHealth corporate campus and is projected to save the organization approximately \$20 million over 20 years in operational savings. It is estimated that initial project costs will be recouped in 12-15 years, with an anticipated 30% direct payment through the Investment Tax Credit once the system is in service. 4,200 megawatt hours (MWh) are expected to be produced per year, equivalent to the annual electricity use for over 550 US homes. This project will yield an additional 433 covered parking spaces, multiple covered walking paths, and 31 dual-port electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for team members and guests, enhancing the overall campus experience. EV charging zones will be strategically grouped across campus to ensure the convenience of readily available stations regardless of which building an individual may be

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visiting that day. The project's location on AdventHealth's corporate campus also provides an opportunity to highlight the solar technology to leaders from across the organization. Successful implementation at the corporate campus is a pilot that will promote future implementation across the company's national footprint.

## **Role of community partnerships in the project:**

AdventHealth is partnering with a local solar developer, ESA, to design and build the project and has established close partnerships with the city of Altamonte Springs and Duke Energy to support a safe and effective implementation. This style and size of renewable energy project is the first of its kind in Altamonte Springs, so permitting and engineering reviews have been managed carefully and in tight collaboration with AdventHealth and ESA.

## **Advice and Guidance**

### **What influenced your organization's decision to pursue this project?**

As a signatory of the White House/HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge, AdventHealth has pledged a 50% reduction by 2030 in its scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions, and the on-site solar energy installation at our corporate headquarters is another step towards achieving this goal. Sustainability initiatives such as this one allow our organization to help ensure the long-term well-being of our team members, patients, communities, business, and environment. This solar installation helps reduce our organizational impact on the environment while demonstrating our commitment to sustainability in a significant and tangible way.

### **How did the IRA affect your decision-making about this project?**

The IRA provided a pathway for AdventHealth to maximize the project in scope to include all campus buildings, garages, and available surface parking and ensure a responsible use of strategic capital.

### **Looking back, is there anything you wish you had known when you were starting to consider this project?**

AdventHealth began planning this project before many of the relevant regulations were published, and IRA guidance was updated on multiple occasions in the months after the project scope was solidified. These new understandings of definitions and allowances excluded parts of the project AdventHealth had thought might be eligible for IRA funding, specifically the EV charging infrastructure. The resulting modifications decreased the anticipated direct payment and changed some of the project's underlying financials. The lesson to be learned, or remembered, is that regulations and guidance can and often change. The project should be valuable and viable even if there are reductions in the anticipated tax incentives.

### **What advice would you give someone pitching a similar project to their leadership or board?**

One of the key indicators of success is ensuring that the right stakeholders have a seat at the table from the very beginning of the conversation, and that visibility and cross-functional support is established from

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the start. We have been truly fortunate to have leadership support from AdventHealth's C-suite as we have pursued this project, stemming from a shared understanding that sustainability efforts such as this one have a positive impact on all our team members, patients, and the communities we serve. Continued communication and transparency around project goals and operational benefits (including a reduction in facility operating costs and enhanced campus experience) as well as a clear understanding of the effort required to develop and implement this type of project, ensures that leadership feels connected to progress and paves the way for continued efforts organization wide. Engagement with multiple layers of leadership has been key to the development, planning and execution of a project of this scale, and we are working diligently to develop an internal playbook to guide future organizational efforts.

You can contact AdventHealth by emailing [CORP.Environmental@AdventHealth.com](mailto:CORP.Environmental@AdventHealth.com).

For more information on the Investment Tax Credit and other IRA opportunities, please visit the [Quickfinder for Leveraging the Inflation Reduction Act for the Health Sector](#).

