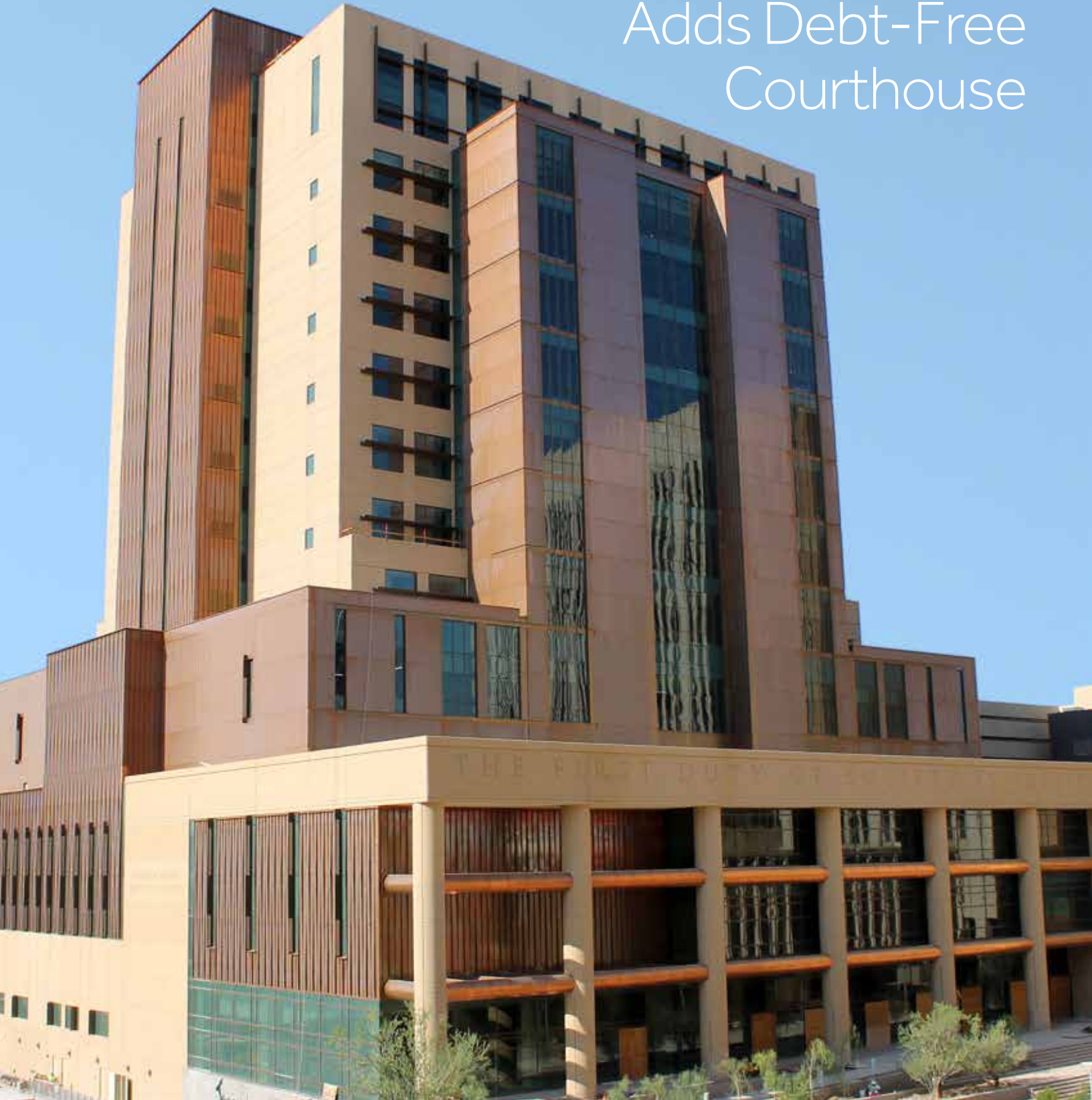


Maricopa County Adds Debt-Free Courthouse



New Courthouse Created Jobs, Features Sustainable Design

Courtesy/Maricopa County.



Copper artwork titled *Point of View*, designed by Phil Smith, lines the west wall of the South Court Tower lobby. The 120-foot-wide panel, made with four shades of copper, reveals the words “truth” and “justice” to people passing by.

MARICOPA COUNTY’S newest courthouse, an NRG Energy Center Phoenix customer, has opened in downtown Phoenix—the largest construction project in county history. Built over three years at a cost of \$335 million, the 16-story South Court Tower adds 22 new courtrooms (with space for 10 more) to serve the nation’s fifth-largest court system.

“I’m enormously impressed with what Maricopa County has done,” said former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor about the project. She was the keynote speaker at the February 14 South Court Tower dedication ceremony.

Remarkably, the new South Court Tower is already paid for in full. It was

funded by budgetary savings over 13 years and involves no debt, relieving taxpayers of an estimated \$191 million in interest costs. What’s more, as County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox pointed out, “The project added more than a thousand jobs in the building trades during construction, using Arizona labor,

materials and supplies—just as the nation was falling into a deep recession.”

Connected to the Central Court Building, the 750,000-square-foot facility features large courtrooms that can handle two juries simultaneously and special courtrooms without jury boxes for processing plea agreement cases. The new building also accommodates separate offices for judges.

A central design goal was sustainability. South Court Tower incorporates many green features like natural light, locally sourced building materials, low-flow plumbing fixtures and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. Such elements are expected to earn the facility LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, which allocated funds for the project; Presiding Judges Barbara Rodriguez Mundell and Norman J. Davis; and County Manager David Smith played leading roles in courthouse development.

NRG Phoenix is honored to serve such an important building in downtown Phoenix.

New Courthouse By the Numbers

800

The number of people reporting for jury duty that the new high-tech central assembly room can smoothly accommodate on a single day.

1,330

The estimated number of inmates who can be simultaneously detained in high-security holding cells within the new building during their trials.



Photo: Larry Russell

Ready to Take the Heat. NRG’s solar-cooled light-rail station at the Convention Center (Washington and 3rd streets) was turned on in time for the first 100-degree day of the year. NRG Energy Center Phoenix provides district cooling service to the station. Renewable energy credits from its sister company Green Mountain Energy offset the district cooling electricity with wind power. NRG Solar’s solar panels generate the electricity to run the cooling fans. The cooled station first started operation last summer and is available May through September.

Forecast: More Ice in Downtown Phoenix

PHOENIX MAY BE known for its scorching hot summers, but this year ice is in the forecast. That's because NRG Energy Center Phoenix has just increased the thermal ice storage tank capacity at our Convention Center Plant—adding 80 new coils that will enable us to continue meeting the chilled-water needs of our growing downtown customer base. The ice-storage tank allows NRG Phoenix to produce



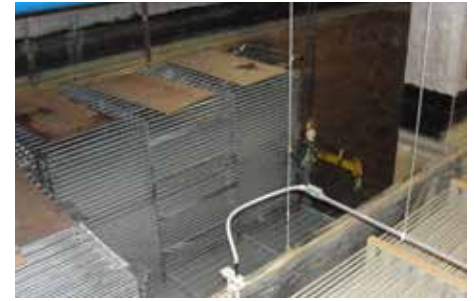
Taken from the ice tank floor, this image provides perspective on the size of the new coils.

and store ice at night when electricity rates are lowest and then use the ice for cooling during peak daytime hours.

The ice-tank expansion is the fifth and final phase of the original build-out plan for our Convention Center Plant that began operation in 2006 and provides chilled water to the Convention Center and other NRG Phoenix customers. The plant originally included an ice-storage tank with 40 coils (20,000 ton-hr of capacity) and two chillers (one 1,000 tons and one 2,000 tons). Since then, six chillers totaling 12,000 tons have been added.

In December, a 25-person crew began installing 80 new ice-tank coils—each 10-feet wide x 5-feet high x 20-feet long weighing 10,000 lb each—to complete the build-out. Trucked in from manufacturer Evapco in California, the coils were delivered to the lower level of the convention center and staged in an exhibition hall. From there, three to seven coils were moved to the tank and installed each day. After a month of working up to 12 hours a day, six days a week, the crews completed the installation on January 10.

Once crews welded the pipes to connect the coil system, a deionized water and glycol mixture was pumped into the system so the tank could undergo a



In this view from the top of the tank, a worker helps position the new coils.

"passivation" process to inhibit corrosion. In early April, the newly-expanded tank started building up ice. Testing followed and the new coils came fully on line at the end of April.

"We can't say enough about what a great job project coordinator Gary Cheek and the crew have done on this project," says Mike Perfette, Director of Operations & Facilities at NRG Phoenix. "This effort required extensive coordination and a significant focus on safety, especially since crews were working in a restricted space with limited access. We're proud there hasn't been a single injury on the job. Now that the expansion is nearly completed, we can get ready to supply reliable chilled-water service to even more downtown customers."

Maintaining the Lead

ENERGY EFFICIENCY and reliability are important to NRG Energy Center Phoenix. That means all district cooling plant equipment must be kept in peak operating condition at all times. It's why Andrew Curry's job as Maintenance Team Lead is so important. Along with his maintenance staff, Andrew is charged with maintaining the chillers, pumps and all things mechanical at our cooling plants in downtown Phoenix, Tucson, and on the Arizona State University campus.

Andrew joined NRG Phoenix in 2008. "The most important work I do here is preventive maintenance," he explains. "That means keeping the chillers running at peak efficiency and identifying and addressing any equipment issues even before they happen."

At the start of his career, Andrew prepared for work in the industry by earning an associate degree in air-conditioning

refrigeration technology. But on-the-job training has proved to be invaluable. "Truth be told, experience in the field is what teaches you what really needs to get done," he says.

Before joining NRG Phoenix, Andrew was a chiller mechanic in the Phoenix metro area for manufacturer York, a division of Johnson Controls, where he participated in extensive refrigeration training. Prior to that, he owned his own commercial and industrial refrigeration rental company in Colorado. He is an ASHRAE member and has earned the UA (United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices) STAR certification for piping professionals as well as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency certification for servicing motor vehicle air-conditioning systems.

Originally from Phoenix, Andrew is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing and hunting big game and birds.



Photo: Dave Tevis



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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Growth: A Good Challenge to Have

Photo: Tevis Photographic



NRG ENERGY CENTER PHOENIX recently achieved a significant milestone when we completed the final expansion of our district cooling plant at the Convention Center in downtown Phoenix. (See "Forecast: More Ice in Downtown Phoenix.")

We have steadily increased the capacity of our district cooling system over the past five years to meet the needs of our growing downtown customer base. We now have three plants that

produce chilled water and distribute it through underground pipes to more than 30 downtown buildings.

As the economy begins to turn around and downtown resurges and grows, NRG Phoenix wants to be sure we have sufficient capacity to serve additional customers. We are now identifying downtown locations where we can install additional chilled-water capacity.

If you plan to expand your existing facility, or construct a new building downtown and want district cooling service, please let us know as soon as possible. That way we can reserve capacity for you—and know how much more capacity to build. Right now capacity is set aside for customers on a first-come, first-served basis. We want to be sure we are ready to serve you as soon as you need chilled water, so please let us know your plans.

NRG Phoenix is committed to growing along with downtown Phoenix and keeping tenants and residents cool and comfortable in our extreme summer temperatures!

Jim Lodge, General Manager
Jim.Lodge@nrgenergy.com



Solar Spotlighted.

NRG recently held its annual leadership meeting in Phoenix. One event featured ASU's Sparky greeting more than 350 NRG employees at a tail-gate-themed dinner party under NRG's solar PowerParasol™ next to Sun Devil Stadium. NRG owns and operates the PowerParasol™ for ASU. The installation consists of solar panels arrayed above 800 parking spaces near Sun Devil Stadium, providing shade for vehicles and tailgaters while generating 2.1 MW of electricity.

Solar Growth. NRG and its partners recently held a celebration at the 290 megawatt (MW) Agua Caliente solar project in Yuma County, Arizona, to recognize the project's first 100 MW delivered to the grid, making it North America's largest photovoltaic power plant in operation.