

Veridian Plugs into Green Energy at Ajax Riding Academy

"We look forward to enabling a smart society that will offer a better quality of life in the communities that we serve. A holistic approach to investments in a smarter grid, community sponsorship and local economic development will make Veridian an increasingly valuable partner for sustainable communities of the future."

*Michael Angemeer, President and CEO,
Veridian Corporation*

The Ajax Riding Academy (TARA) on Audley Road is a bustling place. Classes run 365 days a year, and hundreds of students attend weekly summer equestrian camps. But TARA is on a mission beyond teaching kids to ride. It's set to become the first carbon neutral equestrian facility in Canada.

A 10kW solar array mounted on TARA's barn roof enables the horse farm to generate more electricity than its operations consume. The surplus is fed into Veridian's power grid.

Achieving a zero carbon footprint takes more than solar panels, explains the academy's owner, James Mann. The solar array is connected to a web-based building automation system that carefully manages energy consumption. Interior lighting, for example, is dimmed automatically when sunlight streams through the buildings' translucent windows.

Waste is another carbon contributor. "We are working towards recycling all waste," said Mann. "That can be a challenge, with kids bringing juice boxes and water bottles to every class in the summer. But we take them on a tour of the solar (energy) system and enlist them as partners. Our goal is zero trash."

Veridian's increasingly smart grid makes TARA's green initiative possible. Smart, because it allows power to flow both ways - to and from any service point. It's this feature that lets Veridian connect to green power sources - 6 solar (energy) systems and a private hydro-electric facility to date.

"We expected the connection would be complex and time-consuming," said Mann, who also designed the solar (energy) system as head of the energy management firm, Mann Engineering. "We do a lot of energy projects," he

continued, "and anything new or different has the potential for delays. But Veridian was incredibly supportive in helping us connect to their grid. The process was fast and effortless." ■



Veridian Connections' service territory includes Ajax, Beaverton, Belleville, Bowmanville, Cannington, Gravenhurst, Newcastle, Orono, Pickering, Port Hope, Port Perry, Sunderland and Uxbridge.

