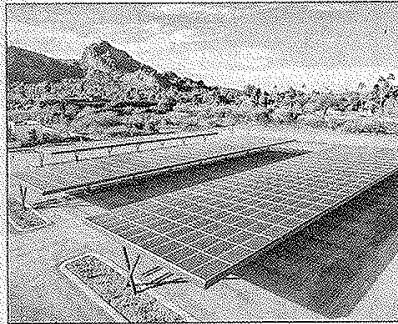


February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011



El Chorro solar panels. FOCUSAZ

## El Chorro gets green honor

When businesswoman and philanthropist Jacquie Dorrance purchased Paradise Valley's historic El Chorro Lodge restaurant from longtime owners Joe and Evie Miller in 2009, she had planned to renovate the nearly 75-year-old property, adding some environmentally responsible features into the new design.

With a little encouragement from Scottsdale-based green builder Desert Star Construction, Dorrance ended up making a little history of her own.



### Real Estate

**J. CRAIG ANDERSON**  
The Arizona Republic

This month, El Chorro Lodge became the first restaurant in Arizona to earn the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design Gold Certification.

The designation, usually referred to as LEED, is the only universally recognized green-building pedigree, with gold

being the second-highest level attainable.

LEED certification was created primarily for office buildings, but more recently the council has developed criteria for a variety of other building types.

The new El Chorro Lodge features a number of green-building features, including a solar-energy heating system that reduces the restaurant's energy use by more than 50 percent, according to Desert Star President Jerry Meek.

It also features eco-friendly insulation made of recycled blue jeans, he said, and about 75 percent of the materials used in the redesign were salvaged from the original restaurant, including more than 80 of the original plants.

"We were thrilled to lead the El Chorro renovation and thrilled again when the El Chorro team approved our green-build recommendations," Meek said.

The restaurant, 5550 E. Lincoln Drive, reopened about a year ago.