



General/Electrical Contractor, CA Lic. 940534

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BAY AREA BEVERAGE COMPANY

CASE STUDY



BACKGROUND: The Bay Area Beverage Co. is a major Northern California distributor of branded beverages. From its facility in Richmond, CA, it distributes approximately 7 million cases of beverages to over 3000 dealers annually. As their service area increased, so did their energy needs by 7% annually. Their electricity costs reached more than \$170,000 a year.

THE CHALLENGE:

The Company's energy needs included the maintenance of a controlled temperature environment for perishable beverages. At the same time, they expanded the automated pallet mixing system, in order to most efficiently meet customer orders. When BABCO President, T.J. Louderback, decided to install a solar system, he also discovered that, before doing so, warehouse roof needed to be replaced as well. While he had not been planning to go solar, he soon saw the cost- saving opportunity solar electricity would offer.

Project Overview	
Location:	Richmond, CA
Completion Date:	November 2008
Size of System:	586 kW
Peak Capacity:	834,998 kWh/year
PV Surface Area:	46,700 sq. ft.
No. of Modules:	2,756
Products:	Sharp ND-216 polycrystalline modules, Iron Ridge racking

THE SOLUTION:

One Sun, Inc. coordinated its process with complete tearoff and re-roofing operation to integrate the installation of 2,548 solar modules. Accommodation was made for a wide variety of roof elevations. The custom-designed racking placed the modules at a 30-degree tilt, resulting in 11% more production than other low-profile solar solutions.



THE BENEFITS:

- The system will provide 100% of the facility's energy requirements.
- Rebates and tax incentives paid for 50% of the project costs.
- The system will save the company approximately \$1.5 million in utility costs over 10 years.
- The loan payments will be nearly the same as monthly utility bills but, after that, the electricity will be free.
- The system reduces the amount of CO2 emission by 810,840 lbs.; the equivalent of removing 54 cars from the road or powering 76 homes.



"...our solar system will provide significant savings and cash flow immediately. For us going solar isn't just about doing the right thing, it's good business as well," says President, T.J. Louderback.