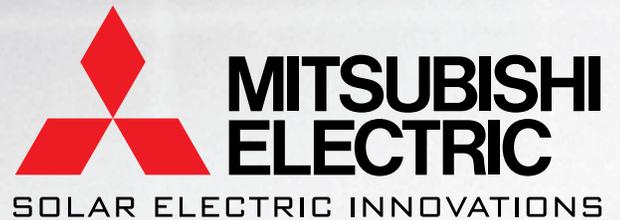


CASE STUDY



What's Brewing in Chico, California?

Chico, Calif. is home to one of the finest and most eco-friendly breweries in the country. The Sierra Nevada Brewery is considered by many to be the premier craft brewery in the United States. But what many people don't know about is the strong commitment the brewery has made to the environment.

Sierra Nevada was the first brewing company to participate in the California Climate Action Registry by voluntarily tracking its greenhouse gas emissions. It makes methane from brewery waste products, which fuels four 250kW fuel cells on-site and it has a 500 kW solar array shade structure in its parking lot. In addition, the brewery makes an ongoing effort to recycle, conserve resources, and use innovative waste reduction techniques.

The latest addition to the brewery is the installation of a 1.42 MW solar electric system on the roof of its factory in Chico, making this one of the largest privately owned solar systems in the United States.

The solar electric system was installed by Chico Electric and uses 7,688 Mitsubishi Electric 185Wp high-strength, corrosion-resistant solar panels. The complexity of the factory's 10 rooftops, with multiple azimuths and tilts, made the system design a challenge. Chico Electric chose multiple inverters of different sizes rather than a few large inverters to maximize the amount of power generated from the module strings. The system also uses non-penetrating mounting hardware, reducing the number of roof penetrations and possible leaks, and decreasing installation time.



*"Installing a solar electric system was an obvious choice for us, especially when financial incentives saved us 93% of the cost."
Ken Grossman, Sierra Nevada Brewery*

* Based on estimates from www.climatecare.org.

Case Study
SIERRA NEVADA BREWERY

CASE STUDY

SIERRA NEVADA BREWERY (cont.)

The brewery's renewable energy systems will provide 90 percent of the brewery's power. The solar system is expected to produce more than two million kWh of electricity a year which would offset approximately 21,480 tons of CO₂ from entering the environment over the 20-year life of the system. This is equivalent to driving nearly 60 million miles.*

The entire 1.42 MW solar electric system is expected to pay for itself in less than seven years. By taking advantage of federal tax credits, California rebates from the California Solar Initiative, and accelerated depreciation, Sierra Nevada Brewery was able to reduce the total system cost by 93 percent.



PROJECT DETAILS:

System Size: 1.42 MW DC

Location: Chico, Calif.

Solar Panels: 7,688 Mitsubishi Electric 185Wp modules

Inverters: Solectria Renewables

Mounting System: SunLink

System Integrator: Chico Electric

Estimated Annual kWh: 2,000,000 kWh

FOR MORE INFO:

www.mitsubishielectricsolar.com

www.sierranevadabrewery.com

www.chicoelectric.com



Mitsubishi Electric
5665 Plaza Drive
Cypress, CA 90630
714-220-2500
pv@meus.mea.com
www.mitsubishielectricsolar.com