

PROJECT

Josef Chromy Wines, Tasmania
100kW Solar Photovoltaic System
October 2013



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Josef Chromy fled his war-torn Czech village in 1950 as a penniless 20-year-old after eleven years of Nazi and Soviet occupation. After immigrating to Australia, over the next 40 years he used his skills as a Master Butcher and Smallgoods Maker to build his business, Blue Ribbon Meat Products, into one of Tasmania's leading brands.

In 1993 Josef Chromy invested in Tasmania's fledgling wine industry. Since then Josef has owned and developed some of Tasmania's leading wineries, including Rochecombe (now "Bay of Fires"), Jansz, Heemskerk and Tamar Ridge Wines. His time and energy is now focused on building his latest venture, Josef Chromy Wines.

In a very short period Josef Chromy Wines has amassed over 14 trophies and 170 medals, making it one of the most successful launches in the history of the Tasmanian Wine Industry.

In early 2013 Bradford Energy Solutions was commissioned to undertake an overall energy assessment to see what opportunities were available to reduce their overall energy consumption and their carbon footprint. The key initiatives that were identified included insulating bulk wine storage tanks, insulating a wine cool room and installing a 100kW PV solar system.

The detailed energy assessment and subsequent report was used as support material to successfully obtain a \$200,000 grant through the Clean Technology Investment Program. Bradford Energy Solutions were then commissioned to install the 100kW PV solar system.

PROJECT SUMMARY

ENERGY SAVING INITIATIVES

Solar Photovoltaic	100kW
Approx. annual electricity consumption in Kwh	350,000 kWh's
Approx. annual electricity bill	\$65,000

RESULTS

Approx. annual electricity generation	120-130,000 kWh's
Approx. Annual electricity savings	\$22 -24,000
As percentage of total consumption	35% of electricity bill
As percentage savings of daytime electricity	Over 50%

RESULTS

Order placed for system	25 June 2013
System commissioned	2 October 2013
Design to commissioning	99 days



CASE STUDY

PROJECT

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REASONS FOR GOING SOLAR:

1. Rising electricity costs compelled Josef Chromy to look at more viable and economical savings in the electricity bill.
2. This project was supported by the Federal Government's Clean Technology Investment Program, and the PV system forms part of an overall carbon reduction strategy for the winery. The savings had to support the business case as an economical decision for the business with an acceptable payback period.
3. The decision on alternative energy had to be a sustainable and ecofriendly technology supporting the Tasmanian environment.
4. Major distributors of wines worldwide are now looking for organisations which fulfil certain environmental conditions of export as the demand for sustainable wine grows internationally.



THE PROJECT DETAILS:

This 100kW solar system installed is one of the largest in Tasmania and offered a number of challenges. Some of them are unique to the site and that is where CSR Bradford Energy Solutions expertise comes into play. Some of the challenges which we had to work around were:

1. Installing on a roof which was 8 - 15 metres high.
2. The install was on top of a wine making facility which meant that extra precaution while working on roof had to be taken to ensure no dust or other materials contaminated the site.
3. Accessing areas in a working plant and movement of solar panels and other installation materials poses challenges not associated with a normal industrial install.
4. Special cranes were hired to transport the panels and railing to the roof without plant product flow obstruction.
5. Special safety plans around work areas were devised and full team review done every day before start of the install. Daily risk assessment was conducted to match that day's production schedule and raw/finished goods movement.
6. Planning for ingress and egress of the site was taken into consideration for the seamless install between CSR, Josef Chromy Wines and the installation team.

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