

Bear Republic Brewing Goes Local for Solar

CHALLENGE

Source U.S. solar equipment for American craft beermaker

SOLUTION

Team up with North State Solar, Enphase's 2014 American Pride Partner

RESULT

Commercial-scale rooftop system and solar carport at Bear Republic Brewing Co.



“Both our commitment and the commitment of our customers to American manufacturing, it’s pretty deep.”

— Mike Houar
President
North State Solar Energy

What happens when microbrews meet microinverters? You get Bear Republic Brewing Co., an award-winning beermaker that doesn’t have to travel far for agricultural ingredients or solar technology.

Supporting Local Solar

Bear Republic Brewing Co.’s latest year-round bottled beer, Grand-Am American Pale Ale, is made with hops from Washington State and processed in fermenters from Northern California, manufactured not far from the brewery itself. So it’s only fitting that the brewery is switching to an American source of energy using Enphase Microinverters assembled in Milpitas, California.

In June of 2014, North State Solar Energy completed a 30.2 kilowatt Enphase system on the roof of Bear Republic’s Cloverdale facility. A little over two months later, the brewery added a second system, a 138.6 kilowatt solar carport, also with Enphase’s Assembled in America Microinverters. The solar



Bear Republic Brewing Co. is the first Enphase system owner with microinverters that were assembled in Milpitas, California through Enphase's 2014 American Pride Partnership.

project is part of a sustainability push for Bear Republic, which is also installing technology to treat wastewater from the brewing process while capturing electricity and heat that goes straight back into the production process.

In keeping with a tradition of community leadership by craft brewers, Bear Republic has continually looked at investing in solar energy over the past five or ten years, says master brewer Peter Kruger. "The CEO of our company says while we always want to do the right thing; it doesn't say Bear Republic, not-for-profit, on the letterhead. The economics are finally there," says Kruger, who serves on the sustainability subcommittee of the national Brewers Association.

American Values

As a champion for American business, Bear Republic found a strong partner in North State Solar Energy, an installer of residential, commercial and agriculture systems. North State Solar routinely recommends US-manufactured solar components. In June, it joined an exclusive American Pride partnership to supply Enphase's new Assembled in America microinverters within key counties throughout Northern and Central California.

North State Solar president Mike Hour says Bear Republic could have found lower-priced systems by using foreign components, but like many customers, it preferred the ones with the American flag. "Our commitment and the commitment of our customers to American manufacturing, it's pretty deep. It didn't happen just yesterday," Hour says.

To learn more about the benefits of the Enphase System, visit enphase.com.

INSTALLATION SUMMARY

Client **Bear Republic Brewing Company**

Location **Cloverdale, California**

Installer **North State Solar Energy**

System Size **168.8 kW**

Microinverters **Enphase M250**

Modules **SolarWorld**

Manufacturing Quality

One of the reasons North State Solar has been successful at bidding Enphase systems is its track record for reliability. Using the Enphase M215 Microinverter, Hour says his company has installed over 35,000 units. Only nine of them have needed replacement. With the M250 Microinverter, North State Solar has installed almost 4,000 units and just one needed replacement. "We're ecstatic with those products," Hour says.

Kruger says Bear Republic favored Enphase microinverter systems over string inverters because the system design increases overall energy output, and if one part of the system suffers a drop in production, there's no effect on other parts of the system.

About Enphase Energy

The Enphase System revolutionizes solar power generation with industry-leading technology innovation. Enphase's proven microinverter technology maximizes production of each module, which works together with advanced communications hardware and an intelligent software platform to deliver a reliable, high-performance solar array.