



# POWERS



## **Powers installs largest solar array in Washington State wine industry**

KENNEWICK, Wash., September 6, 2011 – Powers Winery today celebrated installation of the largest solar electric array in Washington State wine country. Comprised of 162 Sanyo photovoltaic panels, the unit covers 2,200 square feet on the roof of the winery's barrel storage building. The new system generates up to 35 kilowatts (AC) or more than 41,000 kilowatt-hours per year, which is enough to supply 18% of the winery's electrical needs. And since the power is harvested directly from the sun, the array reduces carbon dioxide production by 845 tons over the life of the system. That equates to eliminating nearly 1.7 million automobile miles.

Such savings come at a significant cost. The project's total price tag was almost \$200,000. "But we found funding support from renewable energy grants," said co-owner and sales director Mickey Dunne. "We also have the opportunity to sell power back to the electricity grid. So the whole thing should pay for itself in four years." Dunne then added, "The numbers are certainly important to us as a business. But we're really motivated to do the right thing environmentally."

Indeed, the new solar array is just the latest example of sustainability-minded operations at Powers Winery and sister company Badger Mountain Vineyard, which became Washington State's first certified organic vineyard 20 years ago. Other innovative work includes production of biodiesel from discarded cooking oil to power winery vehicles, and the creation of natural compost teas to feed the property's soils.

For more information, visit [www.powerswinery.com](http://www.powerswinery.com) or contact Mickey Dunne at 800.643.9463.