



SOLAR WATER HEATING ADVANTAGES FOR THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

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Overview

From greenhouses, workshops, dairy farms and beyond, solar thermal systems reduce overall heating costs for agricultural structures. Integrating a solar water heating system can be done upfront in beginning design phases or retrofitted into an existing farm.

Solar thermal technology allows farmers to efficiently heat water for irrigation and livestock, resulting in significant cost savings. Additionally, solar water heating is a sustainable and environmentally-friendly alternative to traditional heating methods, reducing the carbon footprint of agricultural operations. This technology also allows farmers to operate independently of the grid, providing energy security and reducing the risk of power outages. Overall, solar water heating can be a valuable investment for farmers looking to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and promote sustainability.

KEY BENEFITS

- Cost savings for agricultural operations of any size
- Reduced risk of power outages
- Promotes sustainability and environmentally-friendliness
- Reduced overall maintenance costs for water heating systems
- Heated water promotes growth and improves overall health for livestock and crops

CASE STUDY: SOLAR USE IN AGRICULTURE

Hy-Point Dairy Farms Adapts Solar

Location: Wilmington, DE

Installer: Solar2Hot

Completed: 2020

Hy-Point Dairy Farms operates a dairy products company located in Wilmington, Delaware. Their operation uses hot water and electricity for the dairy product processing systems. They have just completed the first step in their solar project: the building of three Truckports to support the collectors and solar panels. Two small Truckports will have 121KW of solar electric installed.

The large Truckport supports the SunEarth water heating system to heat 6,000 gallons per day for numerous systems, including sterilization, processing lines, water treatment, clean-in-place systems, case washers, and space heating in winter. This solar Truckport concept is the first ever in the world and was the idea of Danny Meany, son of Hy-Point's owner. As a side benefit, the dairy reefer delivery trucks will save \$13,000 per year in electricity costs from the shade provided by the Truckports.



The total cost of this project is \$1,006,062. The 106KW solar hot water component total cost is \$576,590 and the 121KW solar electric total cost is \$429,476. Hy-Point's net cost after incentives (President Trump's 100% Bonus Depreciation, 30% Investment Tax Credit, USDA Grant, Delaware Green Grant, and a Sustainable Energy Utility Loan) is \$0.00.

According to the energy savings reports submitted to Hy-Point Farms by Wise Power Systems, Inc., and Solar Unlimited North America, Inc., the combined energy savings from the two projects is projected to be approximately \$57,883. Total combined costs for the two projects: \$592,770.

● Project Summary

Location: Wilmington, Delaware

Application: Industrial Pre-Heat

Solar Collectors: 54 SunEarth 4' x 8' Thermoray (TRB-32) Solar Thermal collectors

System Racking: SunEarth RexRack

Solar Pump Station: SunEarth SolarStation XXL

● Proposed Sources of Funds

Borrower cash contribution: \$8,200

DE Green Grant: \$162,000

Delmarva Power Solar Grant: \$3,000

DESEU Loan: \$419,000

Total: \$592,770



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