

Soaking up the Sun



Project

Hounds of Erie Winery shifted their onsite accommodation cabins from gas powered generators to solar panels and lithium battery power banks.

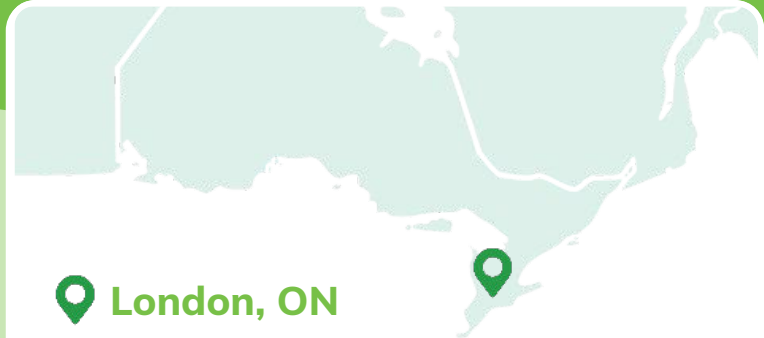
Benefits



Reduced carbon
footprint



Reduce operating and
maintenance costs



📍 London, ON

⚙️ Agriculture, forestry,
fishing and hunting

Overview

The Hounds of Erie Winery is a family-owned and operated boutique winery located in Norfolk County, Ontario. They specialize in cold climate hybrid grapes and hard ciders. The dog-themed winery is a popular destination for people (and their pups) to travel to during grape-growing season.

Onsite accommodation for visitors include cabins that are supported by gas-powered generators. In addition to the emissions that go with any fossil fuel powered system, the use of generators created other issues as well, including fuel storage logistics and staff to run and maintain the generators.

Looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint, the owners decided to try converting one of the on-farm accommodation cabins to solar power.

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The Results

With support from the microgrant to offset the initial investment, the owners sourced an off-the-shelf solar power package. Raised solar panels will now power a lithium battery bank that will store the electricity needed for the cabin.

Their biggest challenge was timing. Because the project was outdoors, it was subject to weather conditions. Delays in the fall and heavy rains in the spring meant the installation happened later than expected. But once a dry spell arrived, the owners were thrilled with the results.

Not only have they reduced their carbon footprint, they've also eliminated the additional costs and maintenance associated with using a gas generator. The winery owners are looking forward to long-term cost savings with their sunny new set-up.



Are you thinking of a similar project?

Do the project in the summer (to reduce risk of weather-related delays)!



**Mat Vaughan
(and Athena),**
Owner



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