

SUCCESS STORY

BALGOWNIE ESTATE VINEYARD & WINERY

Bendigo, Victoria, Australia



INSTALLATION

Customer	Balgownie Estate Vineyard & Winery
Project	Ground mounted installation beside vineyards
Location	Bendigo, Victoria, Australia
Size	90 kWp
Module Type	250W high efficiency Polycrystalline
Connected	July 2013
Installer	EnviroGroup

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Annual energy yield	128,000 kWh Year 1 - 147,000 kWh
Orientation	North
CO2 savings pa approx	166 tonnes

A CLEAN, GREEN FUTURE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY

Established in 1969, Balgownie Estate are leading viticulturalists and winemakers based in Victoria, Australia. Five years ago, Balgownie’s owners, management and staff adopted the goal of becoming a fully sustainable business. They believe a healthy environment will enable them to grow the best fruit and make the best wine possible, in a sustainable manner. They are committed to preserving and protecting their environment by adopting clean technologies and best practice procedures.

To achieve this they have substantially reduced their carbon footprint through the creation of composting systems, sowing organic cover crops to reduce chemical sprays, installing more efficient irrigation, hand tending of vines and other measures. A 25% reduction in energy use was achieved in their first year through the installation of LED lighting, insulating storage tanks, modernising A/C plant and general staff awareness.

In July 2013, EnviroGroup installed a 90kW Yingli solar system to help control energy production, reduce electricity bills and to further reduce carbon emissions (by approx. 50%) with a view to ultimately becoming carbon neutral.

Striving towards sustainability

“As the current custodians of this land, we believe it is our responsibility to care for it and conduct our business in a way that is both sustainable and beneficial to the environment around us. Our aim is to become carbon neutral by 2016 – EnviroGroup’s installation of the Yingli solar system is a vital step in achieving this goal. We are seeing our electricity bills and carbon emissions dropping drastically.”

– Des Forrester, Director, Balgownie Estate



KEY BENEFITS OF THE SYSTEM

- More than 50% reduction in electricity bills - the Yingli system has produced over 147,000kWh in the first year, exceeding expectations by 15%.
- Electricity generated is enough to run 31 homes per year.
- The CO2 reduction is equivalent to taking 40 cars off the road.
- With savings of over \$28,000 in the first year, Balgownie is now looking to install an additional 100kW system.
- The system represents the largest privately owned solar system in the City of Bendigo.
- The Yingli Solar system is a visible sign to customers, partners and staff of Balgownie Estate’s commitment to their goal of becoming a fully sustainable business.