



Woodside Farm Creamery

Hockessin, Delaware



Woodside Farm owner, Jim Mitchell has been heard to quip “A couple of weeks ago our ice cream was grass!” And now, after the 111 kW solar electric system was installed at the Woodside Farm Creamery he can also say “Moments ago, the electricity this farm uses to produce its famous ice-cream was sunlight.”

Woodside Farm, located in New Castle County, Delaware has been owned and operated by the Mitchell family since 1796. In 1998, the family began producing award-winning ice-cream, serving over 100,000 visitors each year. Mitchell spends more than \$20,000 a year on electricity to run the dairy and creamery operations. Mitchell realized that producing his own energy could reduce his annual operating expenses, hedge against rising energy costs and be a highly visible symbol of environmental stewardship that generations of Mitchell’s have practiced since George Washington was our nation’s President.

The 111 kW ground-mount system will provide approximately 85% of the farm’s power and is currently Delaware’s largest solar-powered commercial venture according to the Delaware Energy Office. The PV system is net-metered, feeding energy directly into Delmarva Power’s electricity grid. A two-way meter measures electricity that the farm sends to the grid as well as electricity provided to the farm from the utility. The system was built higher off the ground so that the farm’s sheep could graze under the arrays.

The PV system qualified for Delaware’s Green Energy Fund rebate as well as the 30% Federal Solar Investment Tax Credit reducing the Mitchell’s final cost by approximately 50%. The system will produce energy for at least 20 years and likely much longer, providing clean renewable energy to run the family farm well into the next generation.

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Woodside Farm Creamery Project Details

System Size & Performance	
Project Size	111.15 kW
First Year Solar Electricity Generated - Estimated	133,357 kWh
Percent Energy Offset	85 %
PV Modules	356 Solarfun
Inverters	12 SMA Sunnyboy 5000
Mounting System	Ground-mount
Commissioned	January 16, 2009
Environmental Benefits	
Pounds of CO ₂ Emissions Reduced per Year	151,894
Equivalent Miles Not Driven per Year	150,679
Equivalent Acres of Trees Planted per Year	.9