Kloss Distributing Installs Solar and Lighting Solution to Further Implement Sustainability Plan

Customer Profile

Kloss Distributing Company is a second generation, family-owned distributor that provides beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages to more than 1,500 locations in the Chicagoland area. As their business continued to grow, they faced space constraints and the existing light fixtures were outdated and inefficient.

The Challenge

Owners Mike Kloss, Tom Kloss, and Kim Sullivan had a desire to create and implement a sustainability plan for their business to reduce brown power consumption, improve brand value, and mitigate risk. With the addition of more than 2,800,000 cubic feet to allow operations to expand and better serve their customers, the business would use even more power to run operations. The Kloss family previously evaluated solar for their building, but it was not economically feasible.

Constellation and General Energy Corp., a WMBE business that provides energy efficient and sustainable solutions for their customers, presented an LED upgrade and a solar solution to reduce Kloss' carbon footprint. Kloss faced a common challenge of how to finance an energy efficiency upgrade.

The Solution

Using Constellation's Efficiency Made Easy (EME) Program, Constellation and General Energy Corp. offered Kloss a solar and lighting solution that offset the new and existing buildings electricity usage. A combination of state, federal, and utility incentives offered this great opportunity for Kloss to generate onsite electricity using solar panels. The new IL legislation, investment tax credits and Constellation's EME program, made solar an easy choice for the Kloss family business. Kloss added a rooftop photovoltaic system with annual energy production that almost completely offsets their annual usage. Installation of new LED lighting reduced the lighting load by 50% and light levels increased by over 35%. Upgrading to more efficient LED lighting and a more sustainable power source was an opportunity for the Kloss family and Kloss Distributing to achieve their sustainable goals and reduce their carbon footprint to leave the planet a better place for their children and grandchildren.

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Project Highlights

- 700 kW (DC) Rooftop Photovoltaic System

- Energy Conservation Measure: LED Lighting

- USLED Highbay and Troffer fixtures with 10-year warranty

- Annual Energy Production: 903,112 kWh/yr

- Annual Electricity Savings: 103, 415 kWh

- Annual Maintenance Savings: $4,000

- Annual Cost Savings: $12,273

- Environmental Impact: 639 CO2 Metric Tons Emission Reduction

- Electric Utility Inverter Rebate $199,475

- Annual Utility Savings: $8,273

- Utility Incentive: $13,510

- State of Illinois Solar Renewable Energy Credits Incentive $504,604

- Federal Investment Tax Credit $700,000

- Federal Tax Deduction: $51,600

Technical Highlights

- Qty. of Solar Panels: 1,773

- Qty. of Inverters: 10

- Total Roof Area 81,420 sq. ft.

- System Useful Life: 25 Years

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