

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Major Solar Array Launched at Four Seasons Family of Companies

Ephrata, PA – On Friday, August 31st, the Four Seasons Family of Companies activated a 1.3 MW (megawatt) solar array installation on their main refrigerated distribution center at Wabash Road, producing power equivalent to 182 homes' electricity use for one year. This project marks another milestone in Four Seasons' commitment to reducing their energy and overall resources use as part of their sustainability strategy.

The 3,900 solar panels will provide half the energy used by their entire offices and refrigerated warehouse on a sunny day. Given that solar panels produce peak electricity for about six hours a day, this will provide approximately 1/6 of the building's total demand for electricity in a year. The completed project is expected to pay for itself in approximately 5 years. Not only is this solar array the largest collection of solar panels on a refrigerated facility in Lancaster County, PA, but the building is cooled with recycled water, keeping efficiency high.

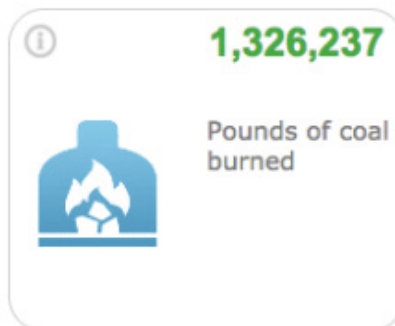


The energy created with this solar array will reduce greenhouse gas emissions annually equivalent to:

Greenhouse gas emissions from:



CO₂ emissions from:



Carbon sequestered by:



Jason Hollinger

“For years, we’ve wanted to do rooftop solar. Our big black empty warehouse roof felt like a lost opportunity. But we chose to first focus on *reducing* power before producing power,” said Jason Hollinger, President of Four Seasons Family of Companies. “So, after many years of diligent work in energy efficiency projects, and falling solar panel prices, we felt the time was right. Knowing that our previously big empty roof is now harvesting clean energy is such a satisfying feeling!”

Four Seasons' mission is “Growing Ideas & Producing Excellence.” It frames the passion with which they do business across the Family of Companies, and it shapes how they pursue their vision of “Driving Healthy Distribution.”

“We have discovered far more of these improvement opportunities exist than we can effectively pursue. Many times, the limits we face are ones of creativity and time, not financial constraints. We have set aside some ideas – only to return to them later – such as this solar project,” said Nelson Longenecker, Vice President of Business Innovation at Four Seasons.

“The combination of multiple projects has reduced our electricity use by over 20%, water use by over 30%, and natural gas usage by over 50%,” added Longenecker. “With a focused recycling program, our solid waste diversion rate (by weight) has risen to over 92%.”



Left: Nelson Longenecker Right: Randy Groff

Four Season remains committed to implement innovative, yet proven cost-saving methods to reduce energy use, conserve resources, and improve the environment. “You could call it ‘being green to save green,’” notes Randy Groff, Director of Facilities and Energy. “By using the same sunshine that grows the produce we sell, the panels continue to eliminate carbon from our supply chain.”

Four Seasons partnered with Namaste Solar, a Denver, Colorado based solar company with a proven track record of projects of this size. Namaste worked with Positive Energy (Granville, NY), PowerStream Solar (Narvon, PA), and Delta Electric (Lebanon, PA) to install the solar panels.

“Ultimately, the actions we take and the way that we conduct business must benefit our children and our grandchildren,” added Longenecker.

For more information about this project: www.fsproduce.com/sustainability

ABOUT FOUR SEASONS FAMILY OF COMPANIES:

The Four Seasons Family of Companies is a family owned business in Ephrata, PA. Companies include Four Seasons Produce, a full-service wholesale distributor of organic, local, and conventional fresh fruits and vegetables, plus other fresh products to independent retailers and natural food stores in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions; Sunrise Logistics, a 3rd party provider of freight, storage, packing, and distribution services to the perishables industry; Earth Source, a grower representative that offers national produce commodity programs for retail and foodservice accounts; and Sunrise Transport, a premium fleet of refrigerated trucks fulfilling warehouse and direct-to-store deliveries on the East Coast. For more information: www.fsproduce.com.

ABOUT NAMASTÉ SOLAR:

Founded in 2005, Namasté Solar is an employee-owned Colorado Public Benefit Corporation and certified B Corporation that designs, installs, and maintains solar electric systems for residential homeowners, commercial property owners, and utility-scale developers. Namasté Solar also provides highly specialized solar engineering, design and consulting services for solar projects across the United States. For more information about Namasté Solar and the company’s unique business model, visit namastesolar.com