

Perpetual Energy Systems activates four PV installations

Thursday, 08 January 2009

Perpetual Energy Systems (PES), a financier and developer of solar powered renewable energy systems, and Foster's Wine Estates Americas, a subsidiary of Foster's Group in Australia, has activated four solar installations including the largest solar energy system hosted by a United States winery.

Perpetual Energy Systems (PES), a financier and developer of solar powered renewable energy systems, and Foster's Wine Estates Americas, a subsidiary of Foster's Group in Australia, has activated four solar installations including the largest solar energy system hosted by a United States winery.

Beringer Vineyards now hosts a 1.34 megawatt DC solar energy system, the largest operational solar installation at a winery in the country. Additionally, Beringer's sister winery at Asti, home to brands Souverain and Cellar No. 8, hosts the third largest system of its kind, producing 1.15 megawatt DC.

All four active rooftop installations, including Etude and Stags' Leap Winery, will generate 3.85 million Kilowatt hours (KWh AC) of energy annually.

PES combined conventional financing, construction and permanent debt and equity, with the federal energy tax credits program to fund the entire installation without capital investment from Foster's. As the financier, PES retains ownership of the solar panels as well as the renewable energy certificates and carbon credits determined by the system's actual kilowatt hour output.

"Partnering with Foster's to host the largest solar energy project at a U.S. winery is an honor for us," says Laurance Friedman, co-chair of Perpetual Energy Systems. "The importance of renewable energy is gaining momentum in the corporate arena. Through this collaboration, Foster's gains a reduction in energy costs and elevates its role as a responsible corporate citizen."

Foster's will host the system for a 25-year term and will have access to renewable energy at a reduced rate for each of the sites for the duration of the relationship.

"This is a smart way for us to do the right thing for the environment," commented Scott Weiss, Managing Director of Foster's Americas. "By hosting the solar energy systems at our wineries, we're helping to leverage the beautiful climate that grows world-class wine grapes to also generate clean energy. This is a great example of Sustainability at work - it's good for the environment, our community, and our business."

In conjunction with Perpetual Energy Systems, The Bright Group, Inc. and Stellar Energy Solutions served as co-developers for planning and construction of the project.

The Bright Group, which specializes in integrated solar energy generation and innovative roof applications, founded Foster's Wine Estates solar initiative in March of 2007.

The company conducted pre-development engineering, system design including building allocation and roofing

specifications. Stellar Energy Solutions, a leading California-based solar energy integrator, served as the project's engineer, co-developer and general contractor responsible for the day-to-day operations and oversight of all sub-contractors during construction. The company will also will serve as the leading partner overseeing continued maintenance and operations of the solar project during its 25-year term.

For further details, please visit: www.goperpetual.com.