



Case Study: Lite Solar

OutBack Grid/Hybrid Power System Installation



Overview

As a developer of commercial and industrial solar energy systems, the California-based Lite Solar Corporation, engineers, manufactures, installs, manages and maintains customized, **zero-cost backup power systems for a diverse range of customers**. Through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), Lite Solar customers – wineries, farms, hotels, colleges, retail stores and coffee shops – pay a discounted monthly charge for the electricity consumed. When Lite Solar decided to add battery backup systems to all customer installations, the question was how to do so without increasing costs or hassle for customers. In one particular project located in a fairly remote area, the Laurel Ridge Winery in Oregon, Lite Solar needed to install a solar system with battery backup not only to combat power reliability issues in wintertime, but also to offset the energy costs associated with winemaking.



Our customers expect worry-free, low-expense solar energy systems that operate no matter the location or environmental conditions.

OutBack Power Radian Series inverters/chargers allow us to build backup power supplies that customers can tap into during emergencies in order to continue business operations as usual."

Mike Middleton

Project Manager, Lite Solar Corporation
Lite Solar is an OutBack Power Installer

System Specifications

Location: Laurel Ridge Winery, Oregon

System Power: 30kW Grid/Hybrid System

Components: Radian inverter/charger with backup battery bank





Objectives

- Offset energy use and provide back-up power via grid-interactive (grid-tied and battery-based off-grid) solar solutions to ensure continuous, reliable winery operations
- Help customers produce energy and cut costs without additional headaches
- Enhance the winery's reputation through more environmentally-friendly operations, including electric vehicle charging powered by solar energy

Solution

Leveraging its own proprietary rack system, Lite Solar designed a solar energy-powered backup system that is grid-interactive and features a battery bank into which the Laurel Ridge Winery can tap into during emergencies. The Grid/Hybrid inverter/charger and battery bank provide backup power in the event of a utility grid outage or disruption.

OutBack's Radian was the best option for this system because of its multiple operating modes capable of taking advantage of available incentives, as well as its easy-to-install form factor and design flexibility. In Oregon's wine country region where winter weather is regularly accompanied by power outages, Lite Solar's system provides peace-of-mind through continuous operation while reducing Laurel Ridge's carbon footprint and offsetting the energy-intensive winemaking process.

Benefits

- Reduces the winery's environmental impact and increases customer awareness and enthusiasm for greener operations due to the prominence of the solar panels on the property
- Provides the winery with noticeable savings on electricity bills by supplementing grid power with renewable solar energy
- Allows continuous winery operation, regardless of adverse weather conditions, through battery backup