

2014 Case Study on Alternative Energy Solutions

Introduction

Voyelle Pty Ltd trading as Waters Abrasive Blasting Services engaged Queensland Energy Alliance (QEA) as its Energy Managers. Voyelle is predominately a day time sand blasting/ painting operation. They currently employ 16 staff members working approx. 3,000 hrs per annum. The competition from overseas has caused the owners to look at cost saving opportunities. Voyelle Pty Ltd had several drivers in implementing an energy management package:

- Reduction of electrical operating costs
- Reduction of site electrical demand
- Reduction in carbon emissions

Implementation allows their business to stand apart from their opposition, promote sustainability within their industry. The energy management package included implementation of a 100kW commercial solar array system which will provide a sustainable alternative power solution for the business particularly as electricity is forecasted to increase even further in coming years. The installation was designed to fit on the new existing workshop roofing structure.

What we did

Queensland Energy Alliance carried out an energy evaluation and implementation program to provide Waters Sandblasting's with all the necessary details to make an informed decision on the project. Tropical Energy Solutions became the tendered preferred supplier. QEA obtained external project funding assistance through Ergon Energy's 'Demand Reduction Program' and AusIndustry's 'Clean Energy Future Program'. These funding programs ensured an improved financial outcome for Waters Sandblasting.

Supply 400 x 250W PV Solar Modules and cyclonic wind rated (C2) PV Solar Rooftop Racking System and 5 x PV Solar grid connect inverters.

What was achieved?

Waters Abrasive Blasting Services:

- reduced their operational expenses to stay competitive
- reduced demand on site
- built the largest privately owned solar power system in Townsville.

Achieving savings of 76,253 kWh/year in energy; CO₂e emission reductions of 1,684 tonnes and \$23,536.25.
The **energy savings achieved to date is 34%**.



Michael Waters explains: "We use hundred's of kilowatts to run our high capacity compressors and our electricity costs had become a real burden after years of big tariff increases. We knew we had to do something in order to make our manufacturing business viable ."

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