

New Energy for New England Produce Pioneer

CHALLENGE

Transform an energy-guzzling warehouse into a facility as eco-friendly as its organic produce

SOLUTION

Deploy a 357.6kW microinverter system atop the building's complex roof spaces

RESULT

80-90% annual utility bill savings compared to the previous year



“Enphase was the clear choice given the complex nature of the job.”

— Tom Biebel
Vice President
Prudent Living

Deciding between microinverters and traditional central inverters had the owner of Black River Produce caught in the middle of opposing contractor bids. But when the time came to choose, Enphase microinverters proved to be the last inverter standing.

Giving Organic Produce a New Solar Home

Black River Produce, a wholesaler of fresh, organic, and specialty produce for more than 2,000 customers, made bold moves last year after deciding to take their local business to a new level. It's no secret that the facility's strict refrigeration rules and refrigerated diesel delivery trucks soak up energy like a sponge: a yearly electricity bill of \$115,000 compelled Black River Produce to tighten its financial belt. For this company, making a change toward solar was the sensible, and prudent, thing to do.



The 302kW rooftop system reformulated Black River Produce's energy consumption with an environmentally beneficial and financially savvy solar power solution.

When Black River put out a request for installation bids, there were two options: use microinverters proposed by Prudent Living or central inverters proposed by each of the four other contractors.

"The building's multiple roof surfaces and levels guaranteed shading would fall over some panel throughout the day. Using central inverters seemed crazy. Enphase microinverters were the only sensible option for such a complex job," said Tim Biebel, Vice President of Prudent Living.

Quality Technology Powering Quality Foods

Enphase's 25-year warranty also appealed to Black River Produce, who needed a reliable technology for the long term. Combined with the warranty, the Enphase System offered intelligent monitoring, virtually zero system downtime, and a better return on investment than traditional inverters.

Prudent Living worked hand-in-hand with Enphase's field applications engineering team to address the challenges posed by multiple roof surfaces, sizes, and orientations. With nearly 1,500 microinverters and solar modules and 62,300 square feet of roof space, the complex electrical design posed challenges when it came time to wire the system together while keeping branch sizes – and communications domains - manageable. Also, having to connect the system across different roofs required strategic transformer placement to help maximize the available space for solar.

INSTALLATION SUMMARY

Client **Black River Produce**

Location **Springfield, VT**

Installer **Prudent Living Inc**

System Size **357.6kW AC**

Microinverters **Enphase M215**

Modules **Yingli 240W**

Black River Produce's system is comprised of Enphase M215 Microinverters mounted to AET Racking and attached to Yingli modules. The \$1.3 million photovoltaic project in North Springfield, Vermont, is expected to generate enough power to save roughly 80 to 90 percent of the company's utility bill. In addition, restaurants, markets, schools, hospitals, and others throughout Vermont and its surrounding states can enjoy Black River's delicious organic produce knowing their food has been kept fresh by buildings and trucks powered by solar.

About Enphase Energy

The Enphase System revolutionizes solar power generation with industry-leading technology innovation. Enphase's proven microinverter technology maximizes production of each module, which works together with advanced communications hardware and an intelligent software platform to deliver a reliable, high-performance solar array.

To learn more about the benefits of the Enphase System, visit enphase.com/commercial.