

case study



Apple Growers focus on core business with solar

The Apple Growers Association (AGA) in Tunbridge Wells has sown the seeds of future business growth with nearly 800 solar PV panels on its roof. The system was fitted under REI's innovative Forward Power Purchase (FPPA). REI funded the installation of the solar PV system for AGA, who themselves made a one-off payment which enabled them to forward purchase 100% free solar electricity for the lifetime of the system.

AGA - a co-operative which provides storage for apple and pear growers before the fruit is sent exclusively to Tesco - will enjoy zero carbon electricity from REI who will operate, maintain and manage the system for AGA for 20 years before AGA take complete ownership of the system. The PV installation will meet 22% of AGA's 894,000 kWh energy use every year.

Manager Carl Wildish, who works at the site with Managing Director David Formby and storage assistant Andy Giles, said:

"The system is exactly what we needed as it gives us a rare opportunity to save on one of our major costs.

"Our stores are running constantly and our electricity bills can reach up to £80,000 a year. The new panels will meet a significant percentage of our daily use and make our operations much more economical."

System specification

Size of system: 199.5 kWp

Forecast Output: 193,000 kWh

Carbon savings: 86.4 tonnes Co2/annum

20 year saving: £208,000



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