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Sweet Life Pâtisserie | Eugene, Ore.



Sweet Life Pâtisserie's retail store in Eugene, Ore., features an Open Energy 10.8-kW SolarSave system and a solar water-heating system comprising two SunEarth EC-32 collectors. The tree in the background of this photo has been removed to eliminate shading on the panels.

Project: Two solar electric and two solar water-heating systems at the Sweet Life Pâtisserie bakery and retail store in Eugene, Ore. Together, the systems comprise 20 kilowatts of photovoltaics and 4 kW of solar thermal capacity. Advanced Energy Systems designed and installed the systems. Completed in November.

Key Players: Sweet Life Pâtisserie (www.sweetlifedesserts.com), Advanced Energy Systems (www.aesrenew.com), Eugene Water and Electric Board (www.eweb.org), 3 Phases Energy Services LLC (www.3phases.com), Dell's Electric (Eugene, Ore.)

Nuts & Bolts: The retail store features an Open Energy 10.8-kW roof-integrated SolarSave system that comprises 24 SP-450 watt modules (www.openenergycorp.com), and three SMA America SP-3300 positive ground inverters (www.sma-america.com). The bakery's PV system comprises 9 kW of Sharp 180-watt modules (www.sharpusa.com) installed on UniRac tilt racks (www.unirac.com) and using three Xantrex GT3.0 inverters (www.xantrex.com). The two solar water-heating systems each feature two SunEarth EC-32 collectors (www.sunearthinc.com) and one Ruud 80-gallon heat-exchanger solar tank (www.ruud.com).

Payoff: The systems are expected to produce a combined 24,800 kilowatt-hours per year. The total project cost was \$196,000, but with federal and state tax incentives and sale of renewable energy credits to the utility through 3 Phases Energy, Sweet Life Pâtisserie's net cost was \$9,000. The store expects to recoup the investment in less than four years.

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