

SOLAR CASE STUDY: EVENTPOWER SOLUTIONS, PORT MELBOURNE



A DIY solar installation was the solution for Eventpower Solutions

Running a business in event installation often means using diesel generators to power the lighting and audio systems. While renewable energy technology is not yet efficient for this purpose, Eventpower Solutions sees itself as a socially conscious company and was keen to offset some of their carbon emissions by installing solar at their Port Melbourne warehouse office.

Installing a solar system was on the cards for a long time, but the potential interruption in cash-flow was the main barrier. After designing and building their new energy efficient premises in December 2014, Eventpower Solutions had to focus their finances on the necessities. While they wanted to install the solar system immediately, paying the bills and wages was a higher priority.

“Our work is very seasonal. In the winter, we live off the earnings from our summer season when all the events are on,” explains Eventpower Solutions director Mark Jamison.

But only 6 months after moving into their new premises, Eventpower Solutions secured some well paid jobs for the summer and found themselves speaking with the bank about an overdraft to pay for the solar installation.

“We just wanted to get it sorted. We knew that the sooner we had it installed, the more the sooner we’d see a reduction in our power bills.”

Location:

28 Cook St, Port Melbourne

System Size:

15 kW

Estimated Annual Production:

13.5 MWh

Solar panels:

60 x Phono Solar 250 watt

Solar inverter:

1 x SMA STP15000TL Tripower

Upfront cost:

\$13,500

Payback period:

3 years

Funding model:

Funded through overdraft;
Installed by Eventpower
Solutions own electricians to
reduce cost & City of Melbourne
solar rebate

Installation date:

August 2015

Installer:

Supplied by A Grade Solar
Solutions, and installed by
Eventpower Solutions

CITY OF MELBOURNE ECO-CITY

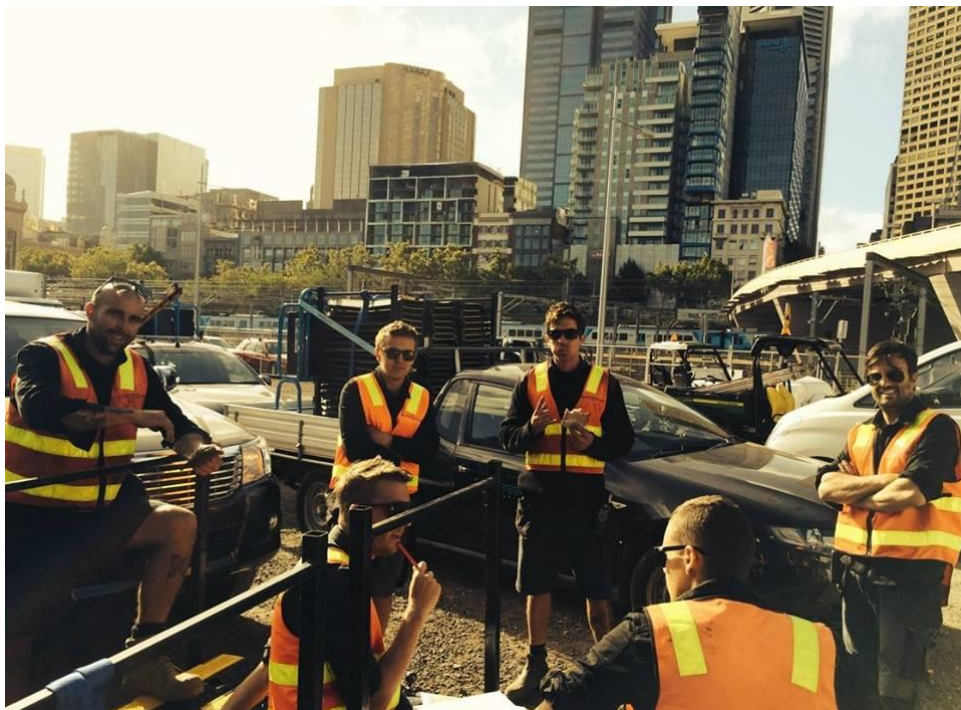
As a company largely made up of electricians, Eventpower Solutions were able to discuss the options for solar with electricians they knew installing the systems and get recommendations about which products may be good. Eventpower Solutions ended up having some panels supplied to them and then doing the installation themselves.

“We used our own electrical staff for the install, which helped keep the costs down, but overall I think the solar installation cost works out pretty well...”

The Eventpower Solutions electricians installed forty 250W panels, with a north west orientation. The energy production for the system is estimated at 13,300 kWh/year, and at the time of writing, Mark is looking forward to seeing their first power bill since the installation.

The Eventpower Solutions warehouse rooftop is visible from the West Gate Bridge, which hopefully highlights them an environmentally aware business to passing traffic. And they may even mention the solar panels on their website. But, as Mark explains, they're not going to 'harp on about it as their customers don't care so much about these issues; they hire Eventpower because they're good at what they do. The solar panels are more for their own peace of mind. Mark reports feeling much happier knowing that they're doing what they can to improve the carbon footprint of the business.

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The Eventpower Solutions team of electricians