



WITTENBACH ORCHARDS

**FAMILY FARM
BELDING, MI | CASE STUDY**

Wittenbach Orchards has successfully implemented a 31.59kW roof-mounted solar array. This initiative has resulted in \$5,722 of annual cost savings.

AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- Initial Investment
- Space Limitations
- Shading Issues
- Policy & Zoning Regulations

BENEFITS

- Meets long-term energy goals
- Hedge operating costs against rising electric rates
- Tax Incentives
- Significant environmental impact
- Reduced energy costs

"So far it has been a very positive experience for us, on track to pay for itself in that 7-9 year time frame which they told us it would be. I think it is a great way for agricultural people to diversify their portfolio. I think word of mouth and reputation is very important in any business, and it seemed that Harvest Solar's reputation surfaced again and again. So we talked to Jake and we did talk to one other company and we just felt that Harvest Solar was the best to fit our needs."

MIKE WITTENBACH

Owner of Wittenbach Orchards



**Scan the QR Code
to learn more
about Wittenbach
Orchard's Solar
Success Story!**

OBJECTIVES

Wittenbach Orchards began exploring solar options to enhance efficiency and sustainability. As farmers, they're always seeking ways to diversify their agricultural operations. The savings from their solar system help offset operational costs during challenging years, shielding them from unpredictable and rising utility rates that can pose a financial burden.

SOLUTIONS

To meet the specific needs of Wittenbach Orchards, Jake Schuster carefully evaluated the farm's energy consumption to determine the appropriate system size. Space availability was a critical factor in this assessment, considering whether there was sufficient ground space on unused land or a south-facing roof suitable for the installation. The result was a 31.59kW roof-mounted system, tailored to power the farm's shop and office. This customized solar solution includes optimizers to account for cloud coverage in West Michigan, aligning perfectly with the farm's long-term energy goals.

FAST FORWARD

Estimated kWh Generation

This solar array has a nameplate capacity of 31.59kWdc and is estimated to generate approximately 39,642kWh per year.

Estimated Savings

The projected savings on utility bills over 30 years from this solar array amount to \$410,101.

Estimated CO2 Offset

The solar array's estimated CO2 offset is equal to the emissions from burning 852,644 pounds of coal.

Estimated Tax Incentives, Rebates, etc.

Wittenbach Orchards has factored in a 26% Federal Investment Tax Credit for this project to reduce the estimated ROI to 6.3 years.