

REF COMMERCIAL SOLAR GRANT CASE STUDY: GREY SAIL BREWING



RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND
POWERED BY RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE



Grey Sail Brewing
Westerly, Rhode Island



The Challenge

Grey Sail Brewing is a local brewery and distillery in Westerly, R.I. with a long-standing commitment to helping their community and the environment. After installing a CO₂ capture system, the team set their sights on solar power. Installing renewable energy had always been a goal for the company, but they were unsure of the financial feasibility of the project.

The Solution

The REF program awarded Grey Sail Brewing a grant of \$35,647.50 to help reduce the costs of the solar installation. This reduced their total project cost by about 25%.

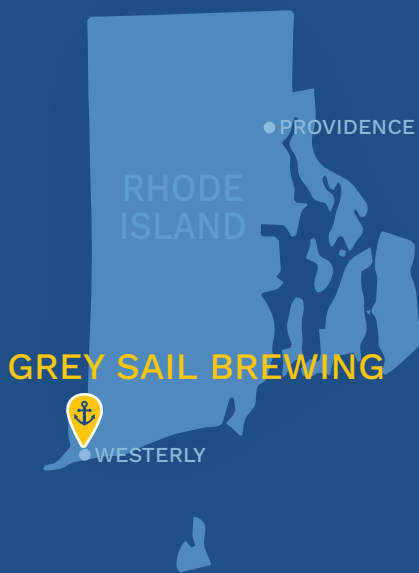
The Process

The first step for Grey Sail was to find a solar installer to take on this project. Grey Sail chose the Commercial Solar Guy (CSG) as their installer and from there began the grant application process. The REF grant application is completed and submitted by the solar installer, in this case CSG, on behalf of Grey Sail during an open grant round. The second step was getting the PV equipment installed, interconnected, and put through a two part inspection process. Finally, the project was approved by the REF team and the grant was awarded to the business.

Program Spotlight: The Renewable Energy Fund

The Rhode Island Commerce Renewable Energy Fund (REF) exists to help expand the role of renewable energy throughout Rhode Island, so the State and its citizens can reap the full benefits of cost-effective renewable energy from diverse sources. The program aims to increase access to renewable energy in Rhode Island by increasing affordability for its residents.

For over 10 years, REF has provided grants for both residential and commercial renewable energy projects while stimulating job growth in the green technology and energy sectors. These funds come from the “system benefit charge” on electric bills, alternative compliance payments from retail electricity providers, and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).



Results and Impact

Grey Sail's 50 kW PV system covers 25%–30% of their electricity consumption. The system is expected to provide between **\$8,000 and \$10,000 in yearly energy savings.**

25–30%

of total electricity
consumption covered

\$8–10K

yearly energy savings

TESTIMONIALS



“REF was a big part of the feasibility to move forward. The offset for costs brought it to a range we could pay for without having to carry financing costs. If we had to take a loan to implement, we may not have been able to accomplish this installation. **I would recommend this program to anyone** interested in solar.”

—Jennifer Brinton, owner of Grey Sail

Partnering with Rhode Island Businesses

The goals of REF are to help Rhode Island businesses and residents achieve their renewable energy goals at a cost they can afford. This program helps to promote the expansion of renewable energy in the state so everyone has the chance to benefit from cost savings and reduce their environmental impact. Grey Sail Brewing is one example of a local business benefiting from the REF. Residents across the state and businesses of any size can participate in this program. We would encourage anyone interested in the program to visit our website to learn more: commerceri.com/renewable-energy-fund.

Let's Connect

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