



Saving thousands with Solar powered cider - cheers!

Dave Stevenson, Mole Energy

Remember, remember, this month of November, Crisp autumn sunshine or not, There's always a reason To consider this season, How solar cuts carbon and cost!

Installing solar panels has helped a Dorset farmer become carbon neutral and save over £1,000 in electricity costs each year.

Richard Frampton is an artisan cider producer; famous for two tipples: Harrow Wood Farm Cider and Dickie's Dribble. As the winner of the Gold, David Bellamy Conservation Award, he is as passionate about helping wildlife as he is squeezing as much apple juice as possible into cider.

He also understands the value of solar energy - one of the simplest, most impactful and cost effective ways to enhance a business. **He's a man with a solar plan** and here's how we helped him implement it.

Saving thousands with solar

"I've had three separate installations from Mole Energy over the past three years. Initially I installed a 4kW ground mount for domestic use and then added a further 2kW to my house and 10kW to my cider barn.

"Switching to solar makes financial sense. The price of panels had come down by some 75% over the past ten years and therefore offered a realistic payback, even without the Feed-In-Tariff.

"As a member of Mole Valley Farmers, I had seen adverts for Mole Energy in The Newsletter. They were the most cost effective option and the office staff were superb, friendly and helpful. The quotation that came through met the specification we needed, was very comprehensive and helped me make my decision and move forward.

Aircon for Apples

"Our 4kW ground mount system produced 11,600 kWh in just three years. I wanted to see how this performed at home, prior to deciding on further installations.

"Three years on and with new panels being even more efficient, the time was right to invest further. Because the initial installation was done so well, I didn't look elsewhere for the subsequent two.

"My cider barn is well insulated; however, I was having to put air conditioning on to keep the temperature down in the summer. This was using about 3-4kW an hour of energy input.

"I decided that the ideal solution would be to put a decent solar array on the cider barn roof so I could cool the building just using the sun's energy. By adding a 10kW solar array there, we've produced 902kWh in August alone.

"I have to 'turn up' the cooling system when the sun is brightest. Happily, this is when the panels are at their most efficient. This means, **I'm now virtually carbon-neutral in my cider barn.**

Squeezing all the juice from solar

"The whole system works very well and because I'm using all of the energy on the farm, I know I'm getting the most from our panels. I also get 100% capital write-down allowance against tax in year one. That means I'm basically running on free electricity. If Scottish and Southern Energy let me, I'm going to install more in a few years' time!



"Solar energy saves me well over £1,000 each year and it keeps getting better.

I've recently bought an electric car and plugged that into my cider barn, too, using any excess energy we generate to top the car up. That means I'm also driving on sunshine!

"I'm sat in the cider barn at this moment, watching the aircon working. We need to cool the building down as we're bottling tomorrow, and I know that all of this is being run from the panels. **It's brilliant!**"

Mulled cider anyone?

1. Pour 1 ½ litres of dry cider, 7tbsp of Calvados, 400ml of apple juice and 75g of dark brown sugar into a large saucepan and gently heat.
2. Add the zest from one orange and spices (4 cloves, 2 cinnamon sticks, 1 tbs all spice berries) to the saucepan.
3. Bring to a simmer, turn down and keep on low heat for 20-23 mins, then serve.

www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/mulled-cider

Cheers!



To find out how Solar could save you thousands, call our friendly team of experts today.



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