



## **St. Francis Winery & Vineyards Dedicates 457 kW Solar Electrical System**

### **PowerLight's Solar Electric System Delivers Clean, Reliable Energy to Sonoma County Winemaker**

SANTA ROSA, CA, AUG. 10, 2004 — Bay Area policymakers joined today with St. Francis Winery & Vineyard and PowerLight Corporation in dedicating St. Francis Winery's new solar array. This 457 kilowatt solar electrical system is one of the largest solar installations in the Wine Country — and in the nation. Covering 80,000 square feet, this solar array produces the equivalent electricity during the day to power over 450 homes, and generates over 40% of the winery's energy needs. The installation was completed in June 2004.

"For three decades, **St. Francis Winery** has achieved great success amidst the natural wonder of Sonoma County. By harnessing the sun's energy to generate electricity, we're doing our part to protect the beauty of this magnificent region," said Christopher W. Silva, President & CEO of St. Francis Winery. Mr. Silva, a fifth generation native of Sonoma County, continued, "Solar electricity is affordable and practical, not only for winemakers, but for all businesses and organizations that want to reduce costs and help stabilize our region's power supply. We hope that other businesses will follow our lead and be inspired to preserve the environmental quality of Sonoma now, and for generations to come."

"St. Francis Winery demonstrates that by investing in solar, businesses can achieve solid economic returns and environmental preservation," said PowerLight President Dan Shugar. "By adopting clean, reliable, sustainable power, St. Francis is furthering its reputation as one of the nation's most progressive winemakers. The solar electric system will enable St. Francis to generate power from the sun, and feed any excess power back to the utility grid, especially on sunny days during times of peak demand. Combining solar power and energy efficiency has enabled St. Francis to offset peak power costs statewide, benefiting all of California's utility customers."

"This should be one of our nation's highest priorities," said Congressman Mike Thompson. "Affordable, reliable renewable energy is critical for our long term economic and energy security as well for the health of our environment."

"St. Francis' new solar installation is a model for businesses throughout the state – and the nation," said CA Assembly member Patricia Wiggins.

"This project exemplifies the measures all business owners can embrace to bring down their utility bills and conduct business in a sustainable manner," added Santa Rosa Mayor Sharon Wright.

The St. Francis Winery solar electric project is on track to receive a rebate from Pacific Gas and Electric Company's self-generation incentive program, which provides incentives for clean, on-site generation.

The 457 kW PowerLight solar electric system consists of high efficiency solar modules incorporating photovoltaic cells from both Sharp Electric Corporation and SANYO. PowerLight employed two Xantrex DC-AC converters, which deliver power directly to the facility's electrical system. In addition to generating power, the solar electric system spares the environment from thousands of tons of harmful emissions such as CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, which are major contributors to smog, acid rain and global warming.

St. Francis also invested in lighting upgrades to maximize energy efficiency and minimize environmental impact. PowerLight custom designed hi-bay lighting for both the refrigerated barrel storage and winemaking operations area. The new lighting reduces the lighting electric demand by 48%, and generates less heat to help maintain a cool temperature for wine storage. In addition, the high efficiency lighting more closely matches natural lighting, increasing visual acuity while presenting a more comfortable work environment.

#### About St. Francis Winery & Vineyards

St. Francis Winery & Vineyards ([www.stfranciswinery.com](http://www.stfranciswinery.com)) was founded in 1971, when Joe Martin purchased 100 acres of land in the historic town of Kenwood in Sonoma Valley. Completed in 1979, the Winery was christened St. Francis Winery after Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of humanitarian efforts and to acknowledge the Franciscan order, the first to bring European grape cultivation to the new world. In 1983 Tom Mackey was brought on board as the first full time winemaker. Mr. Mackey added Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel to the Merlot already in production. Today, St. Francis is known as one the country's premier high end producers of robust, flavorful wines.

#### About PowerLight

PowerLight ([www.powerlight.com](http://www.powerlight.com)) is the leading manufacturer of commercial-scale solar electric products and energy efficiency services. Founded in 1991, PowerLight's systems solutions deliver reliable, affordable clean power for commercial and government customers worldwide. Inc. Magazine ranked the PowerLight Corporation among the top 500 fastest growing privately held companies for the past four years. Today, PowerLight has worldwide offices and a full line of commercial solar electric products and services.

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