

Rural Energy for America Program

Climate-Smart Solution: Goosebay Sawmill Discards Diesel for Solar

\$44,601

USDA Rural Development
REAP grant

78.2 kW

Rated solar array

96,034 kWh

Estimated annual energy
generated

2,350

Equivalent gallons of
diesel fuel

35

Years of family ownership
and operation

\$9,600

Annual energy cost
savings

A Cut Against the Grain in Tough Times

Goosebay Sawmill in Chichester, NH has been a family-owned and operated business for more than 35 years. Though rough lumber is available in ample volume, Goosebay is where one goes to find wood not sold by big home-improvement stores, like applewood to zebra wood and everything in between. When Covid-19 hit, the sawmill braced for tough times. But the pandemic economy evolved to favor local suppliers due to border closures and other restrictions, so an opportunity came knocking.

Important Partners Step in to Help

Having a deep love for the forest and its natural wonder, the Goosebay family thinks in a big-picture way about the environment. Turning to reliable and trustworthy consultants like the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC), Resilient Buildings Group, Inc., and Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA), Goosebay secured majority funding for a level-2 energy audit and reinforcement plans for two structures to support solar panels from Revision Energy. Goosebay had just one more step to take.

A Sunnier Future through Renewable Energy

With help from their friends, Goosebay applied for grant funding from the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to install two roof-mounted solar arrays on the would-be strengthened buildings. Generating enough power to run the sawmill's annual operations, the system will save almost \$10,000/yr. while abandoning diesel fuel—estimated to be more than 2,300 gallons annually—in favor of electrically powered equipment. Tomorrow is looking bright for Goosebay family generations to come.

For program regulations and requirements, please go to the [USDA RD REAP Fact Sheet](#)

