

A successful model for solar energy for companies

The financing and operation model of energy supply contracting makes it possible for companies to use solar power without having to take on the investment or risk. The Energie AG successfully offers this innovative business model, for which it received the Upper Austrian award for sustainable energy projects (the "Energiesparstar") from the regional government and the OÖ Energiesparverband, the regional energy agency.

The energy supply and service company Energie AG looks after the investment, installation, maintenance and operation of the photovoltaic (PV) systems. So far, 52 PV systems with a total output of 6.55 MWp were installed. The systems typically range between 100 and 500 kWp. Most are located in the region of Upper Austria, some are in Salzburg, Styria and Lower Austria.



The programme at a glance

- PV contracting by the Energie AG (EAG)
- 52 PV systems, total output 6.55 MWp
- Typical system size 100 - 500 kWp

Structure of the contracting model

- The PV system is planned, installed and financed by the EAG
- The system remains property of the EAG for 15-20 years and is leased to the client, who can use the generated PV electricity for its operations
- The client benefits from savings through reduced electricity purchase and income from feeding surplus electricity into the grid; These are used to pay the leasing fee that refinances the system.

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The company has more than 25 years of experience with PV. It has built PV systems of all sizes – from small systems of a few kW to the 1MW PV plant in Eberstalzell/Austria.

PV contracting makes solar power accessible for companies – free of charge and without using up own staff resources! The Energie AG covers the costs for the PV system, which is for example installed on the roof of a company building. They also look after the planning and financing. The system is leased to the client who uses the solar electricity within its company.

For the client, the generated solar electricity leads to savings through reduced electricity purchase and income from feeding surplus electricity into the grid. These are used to pay the Energie AG's leasing fee, which refinances the investment costs. After the contract period, the PV system typically becomes the property of the client. Since the systems are well maintained, their service life can reach 35 years or more.

The contracting model can be customised to the client's requirements, resulting in tailored solutions. It is particularly interesting for companies that consume the generated electricity themselves and whose annual electricity consumption ranges from 200,000 kWh to well over 1 million kWh.

PV contracting projects have already been implemented with companies and organisations in a wide variety of fields, such as manufacturing industries, service providers or social and educational institutions.

The 200 kW PV system at "Strasser Steine" in St. Martin and the 400 kW system at Oberaigner in Nebelberg are just some of the showcase projects.

In addition to the installation and financing, the full-service contracting package includes ongoing system maintenance, remote monitoring and insurance against possible damages (e.g. from storms and hail).

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