



Microbrewery Rises from the Ashes to Become More Energy Efficient than Ever



EQUIPMENT
UPGRADES



LIGHTING

When Common Roots Brewing Company was founded in 2014, it thrived locally in South Glens Falls, N.Y., because of four core values: healthy living, environmental sustainability, social responsibility and inclusiveness.

Known for its quality craft beer brewed and packaged on-site, the venue combines its production space with a taproom and restaurant. A vital part of the fabric of the South Glens Falls community, it is a popular venue for the residents to gather and socialize.

Common Roots Brewing Company didn't realize how ingrained it was in the community until a structural fire destroyed the facility in 2019. Fundraisers were organized immediately to support the employees. The brewery was offered some space nearby so it could continue operating a taproom.

"During that devastating time, the community was outstanding and helped to pull us back up," said Keith Johnston, director of sales and operations at Common Roots Brewing Company. "Because of that support, we were able to rebuild a brand-new state-of-the-art facility with even more space. We were truly humbled by the community support. It showed us that Common Roots was more than just a brewery—it was really an integral part of the community. We're really proud of that."

"We have found a great partner in National Grid who can specifically help us when it comes to our energy usage."

Rich Wilson, director of food, beverage and taproom operations at Common Roots Brewing Company



National Grid provided incentives to offset the cost of well-insulated fermenters and a brite tank at Common Roots Brewing Company.

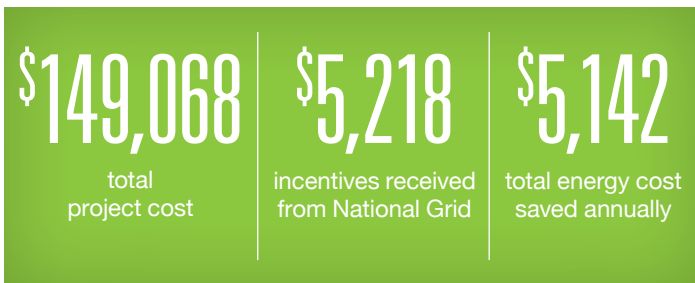
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During the rebuild, Common Roots collaborated with National Grid on a variety of projects to ensure the new facility was as energy efficient as possible.

Projects over the years have included the installation of:

- Variable-frequency drives to modulate the flow and power used in process fluid transfers
- Lighting
- Four 20 bbl (fluid barrel) fermenters and one 20 bbl brite tank with insulation designed to maintain proper fermentation temperatures and allow more batches to be produced annually
- A high-pressure glycol pump and two high-pressure process pumps with variable-frequency drives



The total cost of the projects was \$149,068. National Grid incentives worth \$5,218 helped to offset the overall costs, and the projects save 87,287 kWh, worth approximately \$5,142, each year.

“The brewing process is inherently resource-intensive with both energy and water,” said Rich Wilson, director of food, beverage and taproom operations at Common Roots Brewing Company. “It is a driving ethos here at Common Roots to minimize our environmental impact as best as we can, and we have found a great partner in National Grid who can specifically help us when it comes to our energy usage.”

“Our ability to monitor and be aware of our energy usage not only helps us to mitigate costs and operate a sustainable business, but it helps hold us accountable and makes sure those ethos goals we set for ourselves of mitigating our environmental impact are attainable through data and our partnership with National Grid.”



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