



Senator builds boats with the sun

Hawke's Bay boat building firm Senator Boats is using the sun to help build its wide range of popular alloy boats at its Napier factory.

Instead of facing a \$1500 monthly electricity bill, Senator Boats managing director Wayne McKinley decided to generate his own power, to reduce and stabilise his power costs by utilising the roof of his large factory.

Senator Boats is one of New Zealand's premier boat builders and pioneered the pontoon-style leisure boat market. More than 130 boats sized from 4 metres to 17 metres are manufactured in the factory annually and sent to boat retailers nationally.

Wayne now has one of the largest commercial solar systems in Hawke's Bay, which is capable of generating 20kW of power from 80 x 300watt panels and two inverters. Wayne's system produces 33000kW per year.

For Wayne, solar stacks up financially and he is using what's collected on the roof instantly, to power their large aluminium welders and cutting machinery.

Because most of the businesses power needs are during the day, solar is giving him nearly a 16 percent return on investment as well as reducing the factory's carbon footprint. When it's closed over the weekend power is exported back into the grid, to be used for residential and commercial use.

Wayne wasn't particularly looking at converting to solar, but over the years, he'd

been reminded of the economical benefits by GoldPower Solar's Rupert Ryan.

"I've known Rupert for some time and he kept selling me the benefits of it. I got a quote and it seemed to stack up.

"We looked at our usage and what we were paying our power provider, and if solar power was to return the money they say it would, we thought we may as well give it a go."

Wayne is now eyeing more solar panels on his expansive roof.

"I am now generating my own power which covers 40 percent of what I need, so I may as well try and save 80 percent of my requirement. I'll give it a six-month trial and then decide," he says as he looks at his smartphone and the solar app monitor.

Although there are upfront installation costs the pay back for most commercial enterprises is usually between 4-6 years while for a residential home it is approximately 5-8 years.

GoldPower Solar's Sam Barley says for the past five years power prices have gone up about eight percent per annum.

"There's no doubt power will be more expensive in 10 years, but we all know that investment in solar gets better year by year after the installation date, so the return on investment improves with time."

Power companies are also recognising the increased popularity of solar and Sam says they have adjusted Feed for Tariff (F.I.T.) accordingly.

"Power companies aren't against solar, they can't be, because they wouldn't want to be seen to be against clean energy.

Wayne's not resigned to making it a one off installation and is looking to convert some of his commercial properties and his home to solar. He'll then become a boutique power company and bill his tenants for solar use, a concept that is already taking off in Auckland and Christchurch.

"This is already happening in Auckland, where the property owner is billing the tenant, so it's worth a look," he says.

GoldPower Solar also does residential installations and created an on-farm power alternative for pumping water from dams and springs, where power is inaccessible.

GoldPower Solar sources quality solar panels, inverters and components from China and Australia.

"Solar is now more affordable than a decade ago. Manufacturers have refined to cut the silicon wafer thinner and have reduced their size by several hundred microns and this has lead to gradually reducing costs," says Sam.

www.goldpower.co.nz

www.senatorboats.com

Think Solar. Go for gold.

High Performance Solar Solutions give you the power to control your own energy use.

GOLDPOWER, YOUR LOCAL INSTALLER OF:

- Residential single and 3 phase systems
- Commercial 3 phase systems
- Stand alone/off grid systems
- Solar pumping

100% finance options available

Contact us today 022 156 2548 or (06) 281 2023 or visit www.goldpower.co.nz



goldpower
solar