

BREWER MAXIMIZES SOLAR WATER HEATING WITH HUBBELL STORAGE TANK



Location: Stratford, CT

Customer: Two Roads Brewing Company

Industry: Commercial

Hubbell Product Installed: Tankless Water Heater

Solar hot water systems may have an abbreviated window of time to collect valuable energy from the sun, but that doesn't mean they can't be applied toward high temperature and/or high volume applications. Two Roads Brewing Company in Stratford, CT, is a perfect example.

The brewery's 70-panel solar hot water system is quite capable of producing the high temperature water needed to serve the brewery's hot water demand. But a 3000-gallon, cement-lined storage tank from Hubbell helps ensure that the brewery makes the most of every solar generated Btu.



Image courtesy of Two Roads Brewing

Breweries use a lot of hot water, so being able to capitalize on free energy from the sun can add up to huge fuel savings. That said, a solar collector's ability to capture this energy is subject to much variation depending on time of day, season, weather, and geographic location. For example, the average daily amount of solar radiation in Connecticut varies from over five hours in summer to less than two hours in the winter.

The solar heating system at Two Roads consists of a series of evacuated tube solar collectors which convert sunlight into energy that is then used to heat the domestic hot water stored inside the 3000-gallon storage tank. A circulation pump continuously transfers this heat from the collectors to the storage tank so there is always a ready supply of 140-degree water for barrel washing, brewing equipment clean-up, and more. This ability to capture and save the sun's energy ultimately saved Two Roads from having to purchase an additional water heater.

The Right Tank for the Job

The ASME tank chosen for Two Roads is particularly well-suited for demanding applications like a brewery. First, the tank comes standard with a heavy duty, 2-inch thick fiberglass blanket insulation that helps minimize standby losses. More important, the tank is lined with a specially formulated Hydrastone cement lining that extends the life of the tank and helps the owner avoid both scheduled and unscheduled downtime.



Image courtesy of Two Roads Brewing

This lining provides a seamless barrier between steel tank and the highly corrosive effects of hot water. The inherent durability eliminates the need for sacrificial anode rods that are typically required on glasslined tanks. These rods are used to draw the corrosive elements away from the steel surface of the tank should cracks occur in the glass lining, as they commonly do. Anode rods get depleted and must be replaced periodically, subjecting owners to unwanted downtime. By choosing cement-lined tanks, owners can avoid the maintenance and premature failure so often associated with hot water vessels.

High volume and/or process hot water users like breweries have much to gain from the increased durability and longevity of these tanks. Two Roads supplies their craft beers to dozens of restaurants and retail outlets throughout Connecticut, so any hot water downtime (due to equipment failure or routine service) can have a profound impact to production—and thus the company's bottom-line.

“A brewer is actually protecting its profitability by selecting a cement-lined storage tank or water heater. These units are designed to provide the longest possible life cycle, which is a huge priority for these types of applications,” said Sean Clarke, Vice President of Sales for Hubbell.

About Hubbell

Hubbell water heaters can aid in the transition from brewing and distilling in small batches, to establishing breweries and distilleries which have the ability to produce higher volumes with increased efficiency. Our products are commercial grade, offer high efficient ratings, and are NSF5, NSF61 approved.



Hubbell water heaters and water heating systems are trusted all over the world by engineers, mechanical contractors, building owners, specifiers, architects, and more. Whatever the application, fuel source, or industry, Hubbell can provide a solution to your water heating needs. We offer an extensive range of water heating products and turnkey/modular packages for Commercial, Industrial, Foodservice, Marine/Offshore and Naval markets.