

## **Taking Environmental Management to the Next Level**

### ***East Coast Warehouse & Distribution Corporation Installs Innovative Solar Paneling System—the Largest of Its Kind Worldwide***

Elizabeth, New Jersey...Tucked between the Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal and Newark Airport sits a massive, 350,000 square-foot warehouse. No, it's not as eye-catching as the sleek planes, monster cranes and well-traveled ships that surround it—but it is every bit as important.

This warehouse, part of a 1.7 million square-foot complex owned and operated by East Coast Warehouse & Distribution Corp., is the temporary home for many of the brand-name products that line the shelves of our supermarkets—from Werther's candy to Sorrento cheese to Newman's Own Organics.

Equally significant, this state-of-the-art facility has taken environmental management to the next level with the installation of an innovative solar paneling system—the largest of its kind worldwide.

#### **Long history of environmental management**

"We've always been 'green-minded'," says Marc Lebovitz, president of East Coast Warehouse and Distribution, a family-run, global warehousing company with over 3.5 million square feet of dry and temperature-controlled warehouse space. "We're organically certified by Oregon Tilth and maintain a long-standing environmental management program that includes recycling cardboard, plastics and

shipping pallets. Installing solar paneling was the next logical step."

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#### **Solar paneling poses logistical challenge**

According to Richard Gomez, East Coast Warehouse's facilities manager, the company initially considered installing a heavy crystalline paneling system. While very productive in other settings, this technology wasn't the right match for the company's needs.

"With the warehouse's standing metal seamed roof, we would have had to disassemble, remove, and reassemble the panels whenever we needed to make roof repairs," explains Gomez. "We were also concerned about the weight load and the sturdiness of the metal supports, since the area often faces heavy wind."

Also of considerable concern was the fact that the crystalline glass system could cause reflection problems for pilots landing at Newark Airport.

#### **The right, light solution**

The company ultimately found the solution with ultra-thin, adhesive roll-on solar panels manufactured by UniSolar. Although the panels require more roof coverage than the crystalline panels, they're much lighter, more flexible and cause no reflection problems. The warehouse now has over 5,000 panels in the channels of its standing seam roof. The renewable energy produced by the panels helps to provide a

temperature-controlled food and pharmaceutical grade space for the various products housed at East Coast Warehouse.

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#### **Customers embrace environmental efforts**

"Our customers are really behind our environmental protection efforts. We're an important depot in the chain of custody, and they like the fact that their products are stored in an environmentally conscious, organically-certified facility," says Lebovitz.

Robert Silos, manager of Operations for the Emerging Markets Division of Nestlé, had this to say about East Coast Warehouse: "Nestlé USA is proud to be a customer of East Coast Warehouse. We're impressed with their environmental efforts and are proud to be associated with a company that's making a difference."

Storck USA , a global leader in advanced technology for food, dairy, and juice processing and filling, holds a similar view.

"Storck USA, has always been committed to doing all we can to reduce inefficiencies within our supply-chain," says Michael Clifton, manager of Logistics for Storck USA. "So we're proud that our largest warehouse facility in the U.S., East Coast Warehouse, is taking a strong environmental lead with the installation of an innovative

solar energy system."

### Staying a step ahead

East Coast Warehouse is continuing to look at ways to prevent pollution and make efficient use and reuse of natural resources. According to Lebovitz, the company is currently exploring the most effective approach to converting waste oil from their trucks into clean heat for the shop and the warehouse managers of Romark Logistics, subsidiaries of East Coast Warehouse & Distribution, are closely watching the New Jersey solar panel project to see if it's something that will work for their facilities in Texas, Pennsylvania and Canada.

### Planet earth: Making it our business

"Thinking green goes way beyond good business," says Lebovitz. "In today's global marketplace, protecting the environment is as important to business operations as buying and selling. By taking steps to expand our environmental management system, both East Coast Warehouse and our customers are helping to secure the future of this planet. And nothing's more important than that."

