

## Striving for Sustainability

**Hirzel Canning Company** was founded over 100 years ago. Now third, fourth, and fifth generations of the Hirzel family carry on the legacy of founder Carl Hirzel. In addition to their own Hirzel Farms, Hirzel Canning works with over 30 family growers in Northwest Ohio and Southwest Michigan to grow the highest quality tomato products under the **Dei Fratelli** brand. Hirzel Canning determined a rooftop solar array would be an impactful way to reduce operational costs and stay true to their core values of resourcefulness, innovation, and stewardship.

## Solar Solutions

Hirzel Canning's solar installation at its Ottawa, Ohio, tomato processing plant was completed in 2025. This is a **1.25 MW-DC** standing seam metal roof mount array, **generating 1,337,299 kWh of solar PV energy in its first year**, making up 64% of the facility's energy consumption! Solar was implemented as a low-cost energy solution, as the family viewed the investment as a process improvement initiative. The Hirsels are thrilled to see the drastically lower electric bills during their busy season and have seen the results line up nicely with the initial projections.

## Result

Hirzel Canning's investment in the solar array represents true commitment to their values. And beyond the array, Hirzel Canning has furthered their dedication to "enriching the quality of life for people in our communities," by taking part in funding a Green Energy Machine (GEM) for the Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools. The GEM, an educational device for K-12 students, provides learning opportunities in solar energy, sustainability, technology, engineering, math, and weather. Melink Solar is proud to support the GEM Program and proud to have helped power Hirzel Canning's renewable energy journey.



Produces **63.6%** of the facility's annual electricity needs



**\$4,660,329** electric bill savings over 30 years



**20,960 tons** of CO<sub>2</sub> diverted from atmosphere

"We strive to take care of the land we grow our products on, the people who work that land, and the communities we live in. The energy we use to produce our products is a big part of that...As we look to the processing technology of tomorrow, we see an ever-increasing reliance on electricity, and solar was a low-cost method to produce the energy we needed without negative consequences for our communities."

— ALEX HIRZEL, PROJECT MANAGER & PROCESS IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST, HIRZEL CANNING CO.

## ABOUT MELINK SOLAR

Melink Solar is based out of Cincinnati, Ohio and empowers leaders to kick-start their sustainability journeys. They work with Midwest businesses and organizations of all sizes to evaluate and implement onsite solar with roof mounts, ground mounts, and parking canopies. Melink Solar's goal is to help owners turn sunshine into savings and reduce carbon emissions. Since 2008, Melink Solar has designed and built over 300 MW of commercial and utility scale solar.

Elevating the standard for commercial solar



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