

HERON HILL  
WINERY



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Heron Hill Winery Awarded USDA REAP to Implement Renewable Energy Project**

**July 2016 (Hammondsport, NY)** – Heron Hill Winery has installed a solar panel array at their production facility and main tasting room in Hammondsport, NY. Heron Hill Winery was awarded a \$45,000 grant to apply toward the purchase of the system. The 72 kW system will allow Heron Hill to offset approximately 30% of their current electrical energy demand. Heron Hill Winery is working with Fusion Energy Services out of Geneseo, NY for implementation and installation. The investment in a significant source of renewable energy is part of Heron Hill Winery’s ongoing sustainability improvement plans and commitment to nature-friendly viticulture practices. Heron Hill Winery has considered solar power options for many years and now finds that solar projects are becoming more attainable for small businesses in New York. Heron Hill first started phasing in LEDs for the interior tasting room lighting in 2010 and participated in an energy audit in 2015 to find further areas for increasing energy efficiency throughout the winery.

“Heron Hill is part of this first wave of wineries to embrace solar,” says John Ingle, owner of Heron Hill Winery. “It is a logical next move for Heron Hill Winery in following our own vision and values, as well as an indicator of the collective commitment by many Finger Lakes wineries to consider renewables.”

Scott Collins is the current Acting NY State Director for USDA Rural Development. “USDA’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides grants and loan guarantees that help farms and rural businesses produce renewable energy and increase the energy efficiency of their operations,” Collins said. “Investments like Heron Hill Winery’s solar energy installation will add to the unprecedented increase in clean, home-grown energy production.” This is the seventh REAP project completed by NY wineries – six solar PV and one wind project.

Since 1977 Heron Hill Winery has grown cool climate vinifera grapes and made elegant world-class wines on a slate hillside overlooking scenic Keuka Lake in Hammondsport, NY. Through the decades, Heron Hill has been committed to supporting conservation in the Finger Lakes region. Heron Hill Winery was chosen as one of the ten most spectacular tasting rooms in the world by *Travel + Leisure* magazine! In addition to the magnificent vaulted tasting hall and winery overlooking vineyards on Keuka Lake, Heron Hill also has tasting rooms on the west side of Seneca Lake, and on the west side of Canandaigua Lake in Bristol.

To learn more about this and other programs offered by USDA Rural Development, please visit [www.rd.usda.gov/NY](http://www.rd.usda.gov/NY) or call directly at (315) 477-6400, extension 4.

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