

Business & Cooperative Programs • Rural Energy for America Program

Solar Powered Tofu: Renewable Energy Powers Maine Business

From humble beginnings making tofu from their garage in Camden, to producing and distributing organic and locally-sourced tofu products throughout New England from their building in Rockport, the owners of Heiwa Tofu have always been focused on a “bright” future for their small business.

The family-owned business includes owners Jeff Wolovitz and Maho Hisakowa, and their daughters Ina and Ami. The family is passionate about supporting small business, organic farming, and local food production - and it shows. They source their organically grown soybean from local farms, and sell their products at 500 stores in New England. Jeff and Maho wanted to take their business to the next level and operate it sustainably, incorporating renewable energy systems. To accomplish this, they reached out to Rural Development in Maine for assistance.

This past March, USDA Rural Development selected Heiwa Tofu to receive a Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Grant in the amount of \$8,822 to assist them with funding their 20.15 kW roof-mounted solar PV system. The system, installed by ReVision Energy, will replace 21,200 kWh, or 37 percent the business’ energy usage and help them realize \$1,667 of savings annually. Just as important as the savings is the message they send by with the solar panels that cover the roof: *That Heiwa Tofu cares about preserving Maine’s pristine environment for future generations.*

Jeff says, “I’m excited that we have been able to offset some of our energy consumption with solar power. It’s amazing how much energy food production can take. I’m glad we are now able to generate some of it carbon free.”

If your business is interested in learning more about the REAP Program, contact Brian Wilson at (207) 990-9125 or email him at brian.wilson@usda.gov.



Heiwa Tofu is a Family-Owned business in Rockport, Maine

Obligation Amount:	\$8,822 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Grant
Date of Obligation:	3/08/21
Congressional District:	Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, Senator Susan Collins, Senator Angus King ME 01
Partners:	ReVision Energy