



**Media:** high-res project photos can be viewed and/or downloaded [here](#). Interviews available upon request.

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## **First for Texas: renowned beverage distributor goes solar**

### ***Brown Distributing Company selects Freedom Solar Power to design and install rooftop solar array***

AUSTIN— [Brown Distributing Company](#) teamed up with [Freedom Solar Power](#) to install a massive 481-kilowatt roof-mount system on its facility, making Brown the first beverage distribution company in Texas to “go green” with solar panels.

Comprised of 1,458 high-efficiency SunPower® panels, Brown Distributing’s new solar array will pay for itself within four and a half years, save the company nearly \$2 million over the next 25 years, and slash utility bills by an average of \$4,300 per month.

Brown Distributing is located on a 30-acre facility northeast of downtown Austin at 8711 Johnny Morris Rd. The building features 125,000 square feet of climate controlled warehouse space and 9,482 square feet of draught product refrigerated storage, as well as Brown Distributing’s corporate offices and fleet of more than 420 vehicles.

“Solar is an obvious choice when it comes to the financial benefit, but it’s even more significant given the positive environmental impact,” says Laurie Brown, vice president of Brown Distributing. “We take great pride in ensuring that our operations are [environmentally conscious](#), and we have a strong commitment to protecting and keeping our local communities clean.”

Brown Distributing is a partner of Austin Energy’s Load Cooperative and GreenChoice® programs, and the company recycles more than 200,000 lb. of waste annually including paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum, glass, and pallets.

Freedom Solar installs [turnkey](#) residential and commercial solar projects across Texas, in cities and towns located in both regulated and deregulated markets.

Bret Biggart, CEO of Freedom Solar Power, says: “After 2019, the current federal tax credit of 30 percent begins to decrease. By 2022, it will be down to just 10 percent. That should be a huge incentive for more forward-thinking, smart commercial business owners like Brown Distributing Company to act quickly.”

Brown Distributing is the Austin market leader for sales and service and prides itself in [giving back to the community](#). The company is committed to integrating new and innovative ways to grow and prosper, and its new solar array will produce 658,014 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually.

The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions appropriated by Brown Distributing’s new solar array is equivalent to 171 tons of waste being recycled instead of landfilled annually or 105 passenger vehicles being removed from the roads each year, according to [estimates by the Environmental Protection Agency](#).

In addition to selling a large variety of Anheuser-Busch InBev products (the Belgian beer maker that brews Budweiser and Bud Light), Brown Distributing also supplies an assortment of domestic, craft, import, and non-alcoholic brands.

Biggart says: “Last year Anheuser-Busch announced it would be 100 percent powered by renewable energy by 2025. The proliferation of solar in commercial business is becoming a movement, and it’s one of many tipping points in the emerging acceptance of solar as the dominant energy source of the 21st century.”

“On behalf of Brown Distributing, we’re proud to have made the initial leap toward a more sustainable future for Texas’ beverage distribution industry. Freedom Solar was the perfect company to help us navigate our transition to solar power, and their team made the process seamless for us from start to finish,” says Brown.

Freedom Solar installs turnkey residential and commercial solar projects across Texas, with offices in Austin, Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas/Fort Worth. In 2017, Freedom Solar installed more than 4 megawatts of solar capacity in the state, including more than 435 residential and 22 commercial projects ranging from 20 to 245 kilowatts.

Since it was founded, Freedom Solar has completed thousands of Texas [residential](#) and [commercial projects](#) for clients including Office Depot, Whole Foods, Lake Flato Architects, Ballroom Marfa, The University of Texas at Austin, and CubeSmart, among others.

For more information, please visit <http://www.freedomsolarpower.com/>, or listen to Brown Distributing Company’s interview on the [Texas Energy Lab Podcast](#), hosted by Freedom Solar, at <https://talk1370.radio.com/blogs/texas-energy-lab/texas-energy-lab-811/> or <https://freedomsolarpower.com/texas-energy-lab-radio/hunter-brown-brown-distributing-co.>

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### **About Freedom Solar Power**

Freedom Solar Power is the leader in turnkey solar installations in Texas, providing high quality, cost-effective, reliable solar solutions for residential and commercial markets. Freedom Solar has installed more than 45 megawatts of solar panels since it was founded in 2007 and grown 307 percent from 2013-15. Recognized as the number one supplier of residential solar systems in Austin by Austin Energy, the fourth-fastest growing company in Central Texas by the Austin Business Journal, and number 338 on Inc. Magazine's top 500 fastest-growing private companies in America, Freedom Solar has completed projects for corporate clients including Whole Foods, Office Depot, Lake Flato Architects, and the University of Texas, among others. <https://freedomsolarpower.com/>

### **About Brown Distributing Company**

Founded in 1962 by President J. Dan Brown, Brown Distributing Company is a family owned and operated beverage distributorship that employs more than 400 dedicated people and serves seven counties in and around the Austin area. They are proud of the community they live and work in and give back by contributing to many nonprofit, civic, and educational organizations. Since its humble beginnings, Brown Distributing has grown from a company with three trucks and four employees, to selling close to 10 million cases of beer and non-alcoholic beverages annually with a fleet of more than 420 vehicles. <http://www.browndistributing.com/>

