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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Green Businesses Get In the Groove

Local Recording Studio Goes Solar

Across the state, nation, and globe, the environmental condition of the planet has become a hot topic. With temperatures rising and the polar caps melting, many people are looking to reduce their dependence on non-renewable energy sources, and are moving toward using “green energy” such as solar power. The latest Colorado business on that list is Evergroove Studio, the first recording studio in the Front Range, and one of the few in the state, to go solar.

“Global warming is a reality... this is just one step we can take to do our part,” says Brad Smalling, the engineer and president of Evergroove Studio. The roof of the recording studio, just outside Denver, currently holds 14 solar panels that generate about 400 kW of electricity each month. The solar inverter, which converts the sunlight into usable electricity for the studio, was sized to accommodate 14 more solar panels so the company can expand in the future as their power needs change.

Looking inside the studio one would never guess this state-of-the-art facility could be powered by solar energy: A Pro Tools HD2 system records music, and a Soundcraft 6000 mixing board takes center stage in the control room. All of the rooms are treated with intricate cypress wood diffusion panels designed to optimize the quality of sound coming out of the large Tannoy and Yamaha speakers and going into the multitude of microphones used to record artists. Even the casual observer can't help but notice all the outboard gear that fills two gear racks. That is a lot of equipment using electricity. “Almost everything in here is recycled. We use a lot of pre-owned gear to save money, so we can keep our costs low, and to keep stuff out of landfills,” reports Jenny Smalling, the manager of Evergroove. “Because we used a lot of insulation to keep sound in, and outdoor noises out, the studio is as energy efficient as it is sound proof.”

Evergroove Studio chose a solar production system designed and installed by Sun Spot Solar, LLC that uses the “Solar Rewards Program” offered by Xcel Energy. By tying into the “grid”, Evergroove is able to sell any solar power they are not using to Xcel, and conversely they are able to use conventional power at night and on cloudy days when the solar panels are not producing electricity. This give and take system is recorded with a net meter that determines how much power is generated and how much is used. “Our initial calculations tell us we will generate about as much as we use, but we can always add more panels if we need more power,” says Jenny. “And if we generate more than we use, at the end of the year we get a check from Xcel, and other customers get to use our solar power.”

A quick look at the inverter, which displays data such as the number of watts the solar panels have produced, shows promising figures: a few days after the solar panels were installed, they had generated energy that displaced over several pounds of CO₂, the “greenhouse gas” that many scientists blame for global warming. And that was in the middle of winter. Summertime energy production, due to the longer daylight hours, could top 400 kW a month, reducing the number of pounds of CO₂ released into the atmosphere by over two tons a year.

Evergroove Studio is a professionally designed, affordable, solar-powered recording facility in the beautiful foothills just west of Denver. Evergroove provides high quality equipment, an inspirational location, and exceptional recording services for it’s customers who range from corporations to up-and-coming artists of all genres.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or would like to speak to the owners of Evergroove Studio, please call Jenny Smalling at 303-674-7618 or email Jenny at jenny@evergroove.com