

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sharing the sun in Kelowna's wine country *New share offering starts in early May*



SolShare Energy and **Tantalus Vineyards** are pleased to announce their partnership in a community-owned solar project installed on the winery's main building this spring. This is SolShare's third solar project and its first in the Okanagan Valley. We respectfully acknowledge this project is on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Syilx and Okanagan People.

So what is community-owned solar? This is when individuals, families and communities come together to pool their resources to fund solar-generated projects. Popular in Europe and parts of North America, investors earn a return on investment as the projects generate clean, renewable energy supply.

Typically, investments in similar projects are limited to accredited investors or large-scale projects mixed into investment portfolios. SolShare offers BC residents another way to get involved in solar energy projects. By participating in its projects, anyone can play a role in advancing solar energy supply and help in the transition to localized clean energy solutions. By allowing individuals to invest as little as \$1000 in the portfolio of solar projects, SolShare makes the investment opportunity accessible to everyone.

"Our mission is to deliver clean energy to our communities, and in turn, give annual returns to our local investors. It's a win-win situation," says Robert Baxter, CEO and founder of SolShare Energy, a subsidiary of [Vancouver Renewable Energy Co-op](#). "We've completed two prior projects in Vancouver. One with a co-housing complex and another with a developer. We're excited to work alongside Tantalus, who equally shares our sustainable philosophy, as demonstrated in its practices of regenerative farming and composting, and leadership in vineyard ecology."

"Our decision to install solar power at the winery has been in the works since we first broke ground on our LEED-certified building in 2009. At the time, the efficiency of the technology and the cost output felt prohibitive to pursue," notes David Paterson, general manager and winemaker at Tantalus. "We knew we had to revisit the idea when we heard about SolShare. We are committed to sustainability, and that means constantly reassessing what's out there that can improve how we operate. Partnering with SolShare has enabled us to achieve the goal of significantly reducing our reliance on the grid, without huge upfront costs. It's reciprocity at its best."

In mid-April, SolShare Energy began installing 50kW solar panels at Tantalus (108 bifacial panels that produce solar energy from both sides), and anticipates 60,000kW of energy to be generated per year; this amount can power six average households annually. Tantalus will purchase whatever power it uses from SolShare, while excess power will be sold back to the grid and a credit will be issued by FortisBC. SolShare and Tantalus will partner on this project over the next ten years and anticipate good returns. "We hope the partnership with Tantalus will inspire more BC businesses showing this type of leadership in the future."

"We have consistently paid four percent over the last four years to our existing community investors, and expect to increase dividends in Kelowna," adds Baxter. With a great solar resource in Kelowna, the Tantalus solar installation holds a lot of promise, and is an example to wineries and other businesses in the Okanagan of the potential sun-powered energy offers.

The investment period for this community-owned solar program is May 9 to 18, 2022 (see solshare.ca/tantalus for any updates). A minimum investment of \$1000 is required, and only BC residents are eligible to participate.

To learn more about solar power, this project and how to invest, join SolShare Energy and Tantalus on May 5, 2022 from 5:30-7:30PM for an open house at the Tantalus winery (1670 Dehart Road, Kelowna). Light snacks and a complimentary glass of wine will be provided. Note: Space is limited to 50 guests, so please RSVP at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/solar-installation-open-house-with-solshare-energy-tantalus-vineyards-tickets-323410929797>. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed.

For more information on SolShare, the Tantalus project and how to invest, visit <https://www.solshare.ca/tantalus/>. Read more on Tantalus and its sustainability practices here: <https://tantalus.ca/pages/sustainability>. A press kit with images of the solar installation can be found [here](#).

Questions about this project or SolShare's community-owned investment model? Contact communications lead Anastasia Koutalianos at communications@solshare.ca or 604-992-9024.



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About SolShare Energy + Tantalus Vineyards

SolShare Energy is BC's first community-owned solar energy investment program. SolShare's mission is to enable investors to share in ownership of a diverse portfolio of renewable energy installations throughout BC that offer financial, social and environmental returns. Solshare Energy is a subsidiary of Vancouver Renewable Energy Co-operative (VREC). solshare.ca

Tantalus Vineyards is located in Kelowna's wine country. Established in 2004, it's one of the Okanagan Valley's premier winery properties with LEED construction, sustainable ecological practices and some of the finest wines in BC. tantalus.ca