

HAUSER & WIRTH

**HOW CAN
ARTISTS
BE SUSTAINABLE**



In our series of resources supporting artists to incorporate sustainable practices into their activity, Larry Bell shares his recent transition to clean power.



We learnt from Larry Bell's team that he transformed his warehouse and art studio in Taos, New Mexico to operate almost entirely on solar power. Notably, this includes the operation of his 'tank' which is a massive and very old thin film deposition machine that requires a large output of electricity to run. This transition not only marks a considerable milestone for Larry Bell's practice but also aligns with Hauser & Wirth's ongoing efforts to promote and implement sustainable practices. Bell is excited about this new chapter which has inspired him to start a new body of work called the 'Solar Studies.'

Bell's decision to invest in solar energy was partially a response to the gallery's commitment to measure and reduce its environmental impact. About two years he ago received a letter from our Presidents detailing the gallery's actions towards this goal and was energized to make changes in his own studio practice.



EDWARDS
EDWARDS HIGH
GRAND ISLAND

Why go solar?

Reaching our collective climate commitments to at least halve emissions by 2030 will require ramping up the production of renewable and clean energy substantially, as transportation, industry and building systems are increasingly powered by electricity rather than fossil fuels such as gas or diesel. When applicable, generating renewable energy onsite and storing it with a battery system reduces demand on the shared energy grid and saves the building owner money and carbon over time. Solar is greener, cleaner and more equitable than fossil fuels.

‘It was the correct thing to do. The government supports the investment and the community benefits from less pollution, and I believe everyone should go solar.’

— Larry Bell

Advice to other artists?

‘My studio requires a lot of electricity to function.’ Says Larry Bell. ‘Our savings are more than \$2,500 per month, so for us it is definitely a good move to go solar.’

If you’d like to learn more about the technical aspects of the project, please read on.





WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Pre-solar installation electrical usage was 71,494 kWh across the studio footprint. The team anticipate they will reduce the annual use of grid power by about 92%, generating roughly 65,500 kWh from solar power and the remainder coming from the energy grid.
- The team anticipate a cost saving of approximately \$10,000 annually.
- In the US, Biden’s [Inflation Reduction Act](#) is making the transition to clean power accessible to all. [Read here](#) about the Inflation Reduction Act and how you can benefit professionally and personally through significant tax rebates. Additionally, the location of Bell’s studio made an application for the [Rural Energy for America Program](#) possible, increasing the grant amount available
- Bell’s studio team shared that the system is “zero-export” solar with energy storage because the local utility provider will not allow solar energy export to the grid. It stores the excess solar production in the batteries for use at night. The 480 volt three-phase system provides demand mitigation, reducing the ‘demand’ cost of peak loads by drawing from the battery when motors (like the vacuum tank) start up. All three systems will provide power to critical loads during grid power outages.

If you have questions, please contact sustainability@hauserwirth.com



Larry Bell | Clean Power Case Study

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