

Solar Oregon Provides Sustainable Energy Information Across the State With Caspio



COMPANY PROFILE

Solar Oregon is a non-profit organization that conducts outreach and education programs and campaigns on the importance of solar energy.

solaroregon.org/

CHALLENGE

To improve the effectiveness of their programs, Solar Oregon needed to quickly and easily develop online database applications that would replace its outdated and error-prone data management system.

SOLUTION

Caspio's flexibility and user-friendly interface allowed Solar Oregon to rapidly develop and deploy custom database applications to manage their workshops, programs and campaigns.

BENEFIT

By using Caspio, Solar Oregon saved at least \$100,000 in IT development and maintenance costs and received national recognition for using cloud database applications.

“Caspio is considered the platform of choice for all our new projects.”

Evan Manvel
Executive Director, Solar Oregon

THE SEARCH FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CONNECTION

More than two-thirds of Oregon’s power come from renewable energy, making the state a leader in the production and usage of solar, hydropower, wind and geothermal energy. Oregon takes pride in its progressive energy policies and all residents, from large businesses to small households, have easy access to renewable energy from sources like rooftop solar panels.

The state’s drive to encourage the use of solar energy is a community effort, and Solar Oregon is at the heart of these activities. A non-profit organization, Solar Oregon conducts community education programs that promote the use of solar photovoltaics (PV) as a sustainable energy resource. However, the effectiveness of their programs was affected by an outdated record keeping approach. Solar Oregon used paper-based processes and spreadsheets to manage their records, making them prone to errors and delays. With a packed schedule of workshops and tours, Solar Oregon Executive Director Evan Manvel needed an easier way to manage program schedules.

SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON SOLAR DATA MANAGEMENT

Manvel considered various membership management programs and even experimented with other low-code platforms. However, he found these programs far too confining. “We were approached by Salesforce and a few other data capturing programs. However they simply didn’t have the level of functionality that Caspio has,” says Evan Manvel. “The Caspio platform provided one easy platform for Solar Oregon to design and deploy an entire application system.”

Because of the limitations of their previous system, Honeywood realized that developing custom database applications himself was his best option. This will give him the flexibility to tailor the functionality of his applications to Solar Oregon’s exact needs. Honeywood needed an easy-to-use platform that gave him the power to quickly build and deploy database applications.

SOLAR OREGON GETS ENERGIZED WITH CASPIO

Solar Oregon got off to a quick start by developing several integrated web applications using Caspio. The Caspio low-code platform provided everything Solar Oregon needed to accelerate its time-to-market and speed-to-revenue. Without coding experience, Manvel built a highly customizable online registration form for Solar Oregon’s workshops that he then deployed on their website and social media accounts. Manvel was also able to incorporate member profiles in a “Solar Ambassadors” directory and a “Find a Professional” database search form, creating an ecosystem for supporters to connect with each other and suppliers of solar panels. Manvel easily integrated his database applications on Solar Oregon’s website, partner sites, monthly email newsletters and social media campaigns. These applications enabled Solar Oregon to greatly improve its agility and responsiveness.

EARNING NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Another popular Solar Oregon program is their “Solarize” grass-roots campaign. The program encourages Oregon residents interested in purchasing solar panels to join forces with Solar Oregon members to take advantage of bulk discounts. The Solarize campaign needed a secure way to share information on onsite solar assessments and solar PV installations across the state. Because of the success of their

previous applications, Solar Oregon decided to develop and manage the extensive Solarize partner program entirely on Caspio.

Using Caspio, Solar Oregon, the Energy Trust of Oregon and the Portland Office of Sustainability successfully managed the installation of more than 400 solar PV systems, which is enough to power over 650 homes. What's more, the program gained recognition in the Solarize Guidebook of the U.S. Department of Energy as a best practice example for other states to emulate.

THE CAUSE CONTINUES

Solar Oregon continues to use Caspio to solve their business challenges. "Caspio is considered the platform of choice for all our new projects," says Manvel. One of their latest projects, in partnership with Oregon Department of Energy, focuses on Renewable Energy Ambassadors

from rural areas. Program participants have online use-case profiles that demonstrate the viability of sustainable energy production systems in rural settings. Solar Oregon used Caspio to design and deploy the online portal in matter of hours.

Caspio applications have become an integral part of doing business for Solar Oregon. Manvel estimates that using Caspio has enabled Solar Oregon to save at least \$100,000 in IT development and maintenance costs. It's not surprising, then, to see countless Caspio-powered applications embedded throughout their website. All these applications work together to provide the residents of Oregon with special events, discounts and resources to help grow solar usage across the state.



Intuitive Point-and-Click Tools

With Caspio's visual application builder, Solar Oregon quickly developed a database system that brings an ecosystem of supporters of solar energy across the state of Oregon to life.



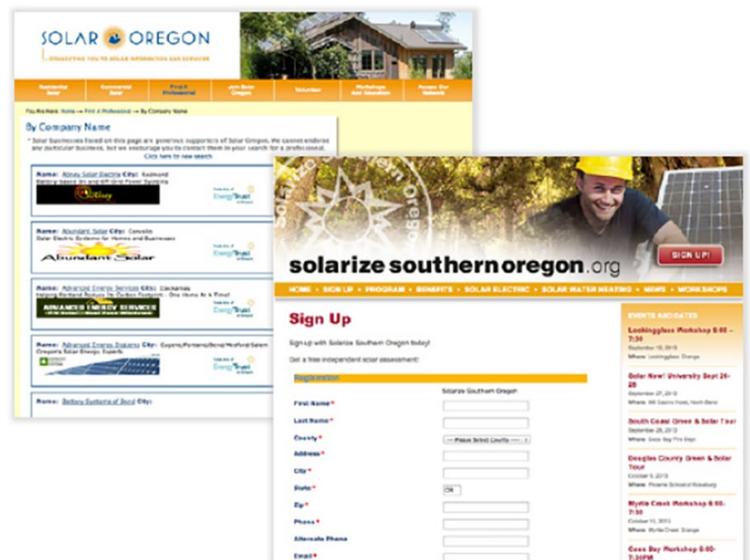
Microsoft SQL-Powered Server

Using Caspio's state-of-the-art and enterprise-grade database technology, Solar Oregon created cloud-based applications for its solar energy program, earning a recognition from the US Department of Energy.



Robust Security Measures

Caspio offers protection at every level, allowing multiple Solarize campaigns to share and manage information seamlessly across its participants in the different cities of Oregon.



Solar Oregon's Online Registration Forms and Solar Ambassadors Directory, Powered by Caspio



Application Developer Spotlight: Evan Manvel

Evan Manvel helps organizations create winning advocacy efforts and engage in strategic communications. He's a long-time community advocate who has served various conservation groups in Oregon. As the executive director for Solar Oregon, Manvel used Caspio to improve program registrations and memberships while saving the group around \$100,000 in IT development and maintenance costs.



COMPANY PROFILE

Caspio is the leading cloud platform for building custom business applications without coding. Embraced by business professionals for ease of use and trusted by IT professionals for security, compliance and scalability, Caspio's all-in-one platform provides everything needed to capture data, share information and automate business processes. The combination of a powerful online database, rapid application development tools and scalable cloud infrastructure reduces software development time by up to a factor of 10. Caspio powers more than one million applications for businesses of all sizes in over 100 countries, ranging from global corporations and government agencies to universities, nonprofits and small businesses.

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