



## CASE STUDY

# Pattern Energy employees discover the value of a modern, web-based ERP system

Modern tools increase employee efficiency and project visibility

Energy is a valuable commodity. It lights our homes, fuels our communities and powers our businesses. But it's entering a new era driven by the need for sustained energy security and environmental protection. As such, renewables have become the world's fastest-growing energy source and are poised to become the major source of new energy supply before the end of the century. In response to this changing dynamic, Pattern Energy, an independent renewable-power company headquartered in California, began a business transformation to scale its business to protect the long-term value of its facilities.

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## Situation

### Company outgrows its legacy ERP system

Pattern Energy operates wind and solar facilities throughout the U.S., Canada and Japan and facing rapid growth, its legacy on-premise ERP system couldn't keep up. Every time it created new legal entities – an average of five each month – the company had to increase the capacity of its existing solution. This turned out to be both costly and difficult to manage.

When it came time to report to regulatory bodies, its manual methods were onerous and inflexible. A dependence on spreadsheets and siloed emails for data delayed the process and risked accounting errors. It became more and more difficult to get a single view of project compliance, health and status. Without the necessary resources to manage all operations, employees

often worked double-duty, copying and pasting data to complete basic administrative tasks. With continued and rapid growth, this trend was unsustainable. Pattern Energy realized it was time to focus on internal process improvement.

Knowing it wanted a cloud solution that could scale and improve the company's operational efficiencies, it decided to upgrade to the Microsoft Dynamics 365 platform and went in search of a partner that could help it make this transformation. Based on a recommendation and our reputation for successful end-to-end Dynamics 365 implementations, Pattern Energy reached out to Avanade to help it make this move.

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### Solution

#### Microsoft Dynamics 365 optimizes finance and operations

The project started with a Dynamics 365 implementation that replaced Pattern Energy's heavily customized AX solution in just 13 months. This cloud-first approach eliminated the need to manage costly infrastructure and positioned the company for further efficiency improvements and future growth. And by automating many of the processes, it reduced the number of applications employees needed to do business.

Leveraging the Microsoft platform and Power BI, employees now have a number of tools to better understand project status, budget versus actuals and forecasts – reports not previously standardized and only manually maintained by the users. Power BI apps made the transformation simple, enabling the company to achieve modernization without increasing its IT expertise and resources. The ability to seamlessly utilize the PowerBI app also makes our business intelligence mobile without any additional effort on the development team.

Another major feature is the master data synchronization tool, which would help address the functionality gaps of the Dynamics 365 platform. This was particularly important because system administrators must maintain data across Pattern Energy's 400 legal entities. Moreover, the automatic language translation and web access has proven both helpful and efficient in communicating with employees in other countries.

### Results

#### Improved efficiencies help maximize performance, minimize risk, lower costs

With a modern ERP system in place, Pattern Energy injected renewed vigor and capability into its once disparate, siloed systems. By leveraging new technologies, it has redefined its ERP landscape and empowered employees to work more efficiently.

"We used to go to budget meetings to try and figure out how we are doing," said Paul Haberlein, senior director of business transformation at Pattern Energy. "Now with automated reporting, we have the data in hand and can use these meetings to strategize and make decisions."

This holistic Dynamics 365 solution gives Pattern Energy employees the tools they need to focus on adding value to the business. "No one wants to move data around and just create reports. We have elevated the value add of our employees by automating routine tasks," added Haberlein.

Results include:

- Improved operational and financial efficiencies across the enterprise help maximize performance, minimize risk and lower costs. For example, the project invoice proposal process is now up to 75% more efficient, which will help save the company significant time and money in its billing operations.

## CASE STUDY

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- Increased project visibility gives employees at all levels a single view of project compliance, health and status through a centralized data repository. "I can extract almost any view to Excel in just two clicks," says one Pattern Energy employee, noting the benefits of better bulk data handling.
- Timely and accurate reporting ensures compliance with regulatory and financial bodies.
- Enhanced user experiences save employees time and effort so they can focus on productivity and higher value activities.

Pattern Energy's business transformation has opened up new opportunities for the continued improvement of its workplace. This includes expanded use of the entire Microsoft platform, including SharePoint, One Drive, Office 365 and Dynamics 365 for Sales. "Our functional knowledge of the system is ten times stronger," added an employee at Pattern Energy. With a modern, secure infrastructure in place, Pattern Energy is future-ready and prepared to face the next chapter in energy supply.

## About Pattern Energy

Pattern Energy Group Inc. (Pattern Energy) is an independent power company listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market and Toronto Stock Exchange. Pattern Energy has a portfolio of 24 renewable energy projects with an operating capacity of approximately 4 GW in the United States, Canada and Japan that use proven, best-in-class technology. Pattern Energy's wind and solar power facilities generate stable long-term cash flows in attractive markets and provide a solid foundation for the continued growth of the business. For more information, visit [www.patternenergy.com](http://www.patternenergy.com).

## About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences on the Microsoft ecosystem. With 36,000 professionals in 24 countries, we are the power behind the Accenture Microsoft Business Group, helping companies to engage customers, empower employees, optimize operations and transform products, leveraging the Microsoft platform. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at [www.avanade.com](http://www.avanade.com)

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