



Banks Holdings Limited

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NEWS RELEASE

THE BHL GROUP: GREEN MANUFACTURING WITH PHOTOVOLTAIC TECHNOLOGY

AS THE WORLD CELEBRATED World Environment Day earlier this month, one Barbadian company has invested in energy-saving technology and is working to steadily reduce its carbon footprint.

The BHL Group recently installed photovoltaic panels at three of its subsidiary companies - **Banks (Barbados) Breweries Limited, Barbados Dairy Industries Limited (PINEHILL) and B&B Distribution**, with further possible installations to follow.

Banks Breweries was the first company in the Group to benefit from the system which has already begun generating significant returns. With a state of the art facility located in Newton, it is now producing approximately 10% of its electrical requirement via renewable sources. The success of this set the tone for installations across the Group.

The system at sister company PINEHILL features a 150Kw solar array, which will withstand a wind load of up to 120 miles per hour. This is expected to reduce the Dairy's demand on energy produced via fossil fuels by 12% to 15% and has a return on investment of 25%.

The savings to B&B Distribution will also be significant. With a similar infrastructure to its PINEHILL counterpart, the system will produce on average 300,000 Kwh with a return on investment of approximately 19%.

Solar panel inverters have also been installed at the Group's Finance Office in Thornbury Hill Christ Church, with a reduction in the cost of purchased energy of approximately 11% noted at that location.

Ivor Trotman, Sales and Marketing Representative at **Solar Watt Systems Inc.** – the company contracted to work on the installation at PINEHILL underscored the value of photovoltaic technology both to businesses and to the wider society.



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“The photovoltaic system will significantly reduce PINEHILL’s annual cost of energy. Also environmentally, it will save 207 metric tonnes of CO₂ which equates to 170 acres of forest yearly or 492,536 miles per year travelled by the average passenger car. When you consider the numbers, you quickly realize the huge contribution that PINEHILL is making to the Barbadian environment for future generations.”

David Green, General Manager of another local company Williams Solar, worked on the systems at B&B Distribution and Banks Breweries and said the installation process went smoothly at both locations.

“Working with the BHL engineering team was straightforward. Once our team had attended the mandatory safety training and provided the relevant information for our solar installation it was smooth sailing from there. They were excited and appreciative of the benefits of solar to the company. We expect that the photovoltaic installation (150kW maximum allowed to be connected to the utility grid) will save each company approximately \$160,000 annually.”

Chief Executive Officer of the BHL Group, **Richard Cozier** said that the island’s largest beverage conglomerate is pleased to save energy on a large scale while positively impacting the environment, as this is the way of the future and part of BHL’s commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility.

Solar photovoltaic systems use sunlight to produce electricity and do not release harmful pollutants into the environment.

The installations represent a full scale initiative by the BHL Group to become an environmentally sustainable business.

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CAP. 1: (from left) Richard Cozier, Chief Executive Officer, The BHL Group inspecting the inverters at PINEHILL with Haldene Green, Group Property Manager, The BHL Group and Stephen Lynch, Asset Care Assistant, PINEHILL.

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