



Barbados solar energy for homes

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Since the 1970s solar thermal systems have been used extensively in Barbados to heat water. Currently there are 50,000 installations [1] or roughly 50% of all households. As a result, Barbadians are aware of solar energy usage and benefits. Over the past few years, solar electricity systems have decreased dramatically in cost and more systems have begun to be installed. In 2001, the installed capacity of solar PV in Barbados was 37 kW [2]. Below is a list of the largest of these systems at that time:

Fast forward to the present and as of August 2013, the installed solar PV capacity has jumped by almost 4500% to 1700kW [3]! This is as a result of the Renewable Energy Rider program. In addition, the Government of Barbados has shown that it is fully committed to the idea of renewable energy and solar PV, thereby preparing the country for even more substantial growth in this sector.

On a MW basis, commercial solar projects in Barbados account for the majority of installed capacity. Here is an impressive drone-filmed video from Williams Solar showcasing some of their solar project portfolio. Barbados has become home to an increasing number of these high quality commercial installations from a variety of installation companies.

Over 400 businesses and homeowners have installed solar PV systems bringing the installed solar PV capacity to 2.8MW. Some of the businesses that have installed a solar PV system to reduce their operating costs are: Armstrong Agencies, Bico, Banks Breweries, and 12 businesses in the Williams Industries group of companies.



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