

St JOSEPH'S SETS GREEN EXAMPLE

Bangalore Beat Bureau

St Joseph's College on Lalbagh Road is more than just an educational institution. It is showing the path for a green and sustainable living and how to make a living using limited the resources our Earth is endowed with.

It is now the only college in the entire South India to have installed a solar energy plant under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission at Rs 1.6 crore.

"All of us are very concerned about climate change. We all know that there are limited resources and if we go on consuming it, one day it will be exhausted. We must be in harmony with the nature. The idea of transforming our college into a green campus with the use of solar energy was given by our students. The solar plant will officially be launched by Karnataka governor H R Bhardwaj by this month-end," said Dr (Fr) Ambrose Pinto, principal, St Joseph's College.

"The solar plant will more than take care of our energy needs. We can route excess power to the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company grid. Especially during summer we will not use much power as there are vacations then. We can give most of the power generated to Bescom then," he added.

"It took six weeks for us to complete the project, including civil, structural, electrical and other installations. This is a 100 kilowatt project where 430 numbers of 230WP (Watt Peak) are used. A 'delta central solar inverter' will be installed which converts the solar DC to regular AC. On a daily basis, 500 units of power will be generated," said David A, executive director, Simplex, the firm which did the installation.

Visitors to the college will be able to see live visuals as to how the entire solar system runs, what's the amount of power generated and utilized, and other parameters through an LCD display unit on the college corridor. This initiative should inspire other colleges and offices to install such units, Fr Pinto said.

"The college will entirely rely on the power generated from the solar plant. Entire laboratory, water pumps, lift, hostel etc will run with the solar power. The interesting part is that the entire 12 sqft system works without any battery for daytime operations. We have already got proposals from two leading hospitals, international schools and corporate companies to set up solar plants," David said.

It will be good if all other colleges and corporate houses follow the example set by St Joseph's College and build an ecologically balanced world and preserve the natural resources for the next generations.

The St Joseph's College in Bangalore has taken the lead in environmentally friendly initiatives, and will soon source its entire energy needs through a solar powered plant. It is ready even to route excess power to the resource-strapped Bescom, Aknisuree Karthik

Ragamayee Rajasekhar

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

