



Students of the St. Lucy Primary School watching water disappear down a deep hole at Bowmanstan.

HOT WATER

THIRTY MILLION GALLONS OF WATER USED DAILY BY BAJANS

Barbadians are using 30 million gallons of water daily and in the process contributing to one of the biggest hurdles to achieving energy conservation in Barbados.

Indication of this came today during a discussion on the green economy at a Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry luncheon at Hilton Barbados.

That statistics quoted by Future Centre Trust Administrative Director, Nicole Garofano, prompted engineer Andrew Hutchinson to say an efficient Barbados Water Authority would go a long way towards resolving the issue of daily water usage.

Additionally, Barbados Light & Power Managing Director Peter Williams also said with the BWA, the single largest user of electricity in Barbados, some solution had to be found to ensure a major conservation of energy, to compliment the move towards renewable sources.

"Thirty million gallons (of water) per day is what this

country uses and I don't know if anybody knew that figure, but it is really quite an incredible number," Garofano said during her brief presentation.

She noted that on hearing the massive number people would start raising questions about the issues of leaks and efficiency at the BWA, but said the problem went beyond this and depended on the contribution of the entire population.

"The fact remains that we as individuals are using some of that 30 million gallons a day and we as individuals can make choices to reduce that," she stated.

"Where it is as simple as turning the tap off when you're in the bathroom, it could be installing a water tank and a whole measure of things could be implemented to reduce that number."

Williams, who was a member of the audience, said there was no simple solution for energy efficiency and conservation, and that no single renewable energy source could lessen the dependence on fossil fuels.

But he said a significantly improved BWA would make a big difference.

"Water Authority is our single biggest customer and water usage represents the single biggest usage of electricity to pump and distribute water. Just sorting that problem out is going to be a big saver for Barbados," the BL&P boss said.

"We have approached the Water Authority on a number of occasions and I think we need to have the impetus and support to get that message through that that is going to make the difference in terms of energy conservation.

"I think it's a transition we are in and I don't think there is one solution. We are very much part of the solution as well."

Williams Industries Director David Staples, who also made a presentation on the subject of the green economy, said conservation and energy would be the biggest and have the most immediate impact on energy usage in Barbados.

The head of Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre, said the island had come a long way since he was a World Bank advisor to Barbados during the energy challenges of the early 1980s, and that there would be significant benefits to the country going green.

He said the BL&P's renewable energy tariff was a good idea, but needed to be extended and increased, and that the company needed an incentive for energy efficiency and conservation.

Staples also said the Town and Country Planning Development Office "needs clear and normalised guidelines for renewable energy systems". (SC)