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Dairy goes for solar power

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Camphill Village, a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) situated in the Western Cape which provides care and employment opportunities for intellectually disabled adults, is home to South Africa's very first, grid-independent dairy. The dairy will now use solar power to process 28 000 litres of organic milk into cheese, yoghurt and fresh milk for the retail market, generating over R200 000 income for the PBO every month. Phase II of a 60 kW solar photovoltaic plant was officially inaugurated on 31 October 2015, courtesy of a committed group of corporate sponsors drawn together by the German Rays of Hope Foundation. The initial first phase of a 20 kW solar plant has been operational since March 2014 and has produced over 35,2 MWh between June 2014 and May 2015, resulting in an average saving of R9000 per month. Now, the installation of a further 40 kW capacity will meet the dairy's annual electricity consumption of 75 000 kWh, making it South Africa's first grid-independent dairy, and a truly sustainable, ecological leader in the region.

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