



B's boss Paul Bynoe (right) tells Lisa Gale and other members of the touring party what happens to the hundreds of bottles and container caps.

GREEN GOLD

LOCAL BUSINESSES REAPING THE REWARDS OF GOING GREEN

Going green is starting to pay off for a growing number of Barbadian businesses.

And a senior official of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which has just instituted its own internal green programme, is excited about the economic prospects of this and related aspects of the activity including a growing local recycling market.

The Future Centre Trust's Green Business Barbados Coordinator, Lani Edghill, said an increasing number of local companies were signing onto the initiative, and that even in its still formative stages the venture was already starting to have a positive effect on the bottom line of participants.

She pointed to at least two companies, which were previously spending \$5,000 annually purchasing plastic cups and said the solution prescribed was purchasing reusable mugs

for staff, thereby saving thousands of dollars.

"For the bottom line for businesses there are some very, very simple things they can do, like taking plastic cups completely out of your office and your styrofoam cups for coffee and get everybody some reusable mugs," Edghill said.

She was speaking yesterday as she joined the chamber's Executive Director Lisas Gale and other representatives the Green Business client on a tour of B's Recycling at Cane Garden, St. Thomas.

"You would be amazed at how much you actually save at the end of the year. There were a couple businesses that did an assessment and found out that they were spending upwards of \$5,000 per year so that's something simple," she noted.

"Some other simple things you can do are things like double side printing in your office as a default and then when you are doing documents that actually need single sided then you specify that in order to reduce paper consumption and then of course that translates to saving on paper and how much you are spending on that.

"Energy conservation is a big thing here in Barbados now and sometimes you do need an up front input. For instance if

you want to put in LED lighting throughout your office, that's going to cost you up front... but at the end you will get your return and depending on the size of your operation a couple of years and then you will actually be saving a heck of a lot more on energy than you would normally," Edghill added. Having started the programme in 2010, the official said 12 businesses had been approved so far and the trust was "in the process of approving two more".

Gale was impressed with the recycling plant, which employs more than 80 people, and said having joined the FCT's green business initiative, her organisation was preparing to encourage its members to do likewise.

"We are now ready to encourage our members to get involved in the Green Business Programme that is done by the Future Centre Trust and also to do some more recycling and to green their companies because essentially too much money is being spent on fossil fuels creating energy when money can be spent on renewable energies," she said.

"So that has been the thrust of the chamber over the last two years. We are very keen to be pushing green because it does reduce the foreign exchange that is utilised to purchase the energy." (SC)