

Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd goes solar

Implementing our Green Policy



As the Cape sun rises and its rays hit the solar panels above Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd Head Office in Paarden Eiland, Cape Town, the workers start their day knowing there won't be any downtime due to electricity failures. Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd - a national leader in PPE; workwear, safety boots, hearing conservation, protective eyewear and respiratory protection - has always prided itself in being at the forefront of innovation in the industry and consciously made the decision to go off the grid to become completely reliant on solar energy. Our corporate green policy directs us to do our part to help us mitigate against the negative effects of climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

We believe this move will put us at the forefront of innovation while boosting productivity.

Loadshedding has burdened South African industry and households with an unreliable electricity grid. Considering this, the management at Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd decided to take the bold step to help the planet and also to future-proof the business. That was the beginning of a process to take the company closer to realising its goal to implement its Go Green policy. Once approval had been given by Eskom for their ambitious off-grid green policy, the installation was ready to start and during April 2022, the process was finally completed. With no production hours lost to loadshedding from the time the solar energy system was connected, Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd has already felt the benefits and so has South Africa - with the excess energy going back into the grid.

Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd is now always open for business and able to maintain the high level of service delivery for which it is known. PPE is an essential product and must be easily accessible. Sending visitors and clients away due to power failures is now a thing of the past. Clients, branches or the end-users can now walk in any-time knowing that the lights are always on. Not only that, with computers always up and running, and no downtime with internet connectivity, a

friendly voice is always available on the other side of the phone to help with any requests, queries and to take orders. Warren Spiro, MD of Pienaar Brothers along with his Executive Director Jacqueleen Bredeveltdt as well as all the dedicated Pienaar Brothers Management and loyal employees, have worked hard at developing long-lasting relationships with their suppliers and clients. To maintain these good relationships, going off the grid was a necessary step to take.

Going green and energy efficient was not an issue for a company that has always been environmentally aware and actively involved in cleaning an already polluted environment. For years Pienaar Bros has donated PPE and other supplies to clean our rivers and the ocean.

BENEFITS OF SOLAR

After years of rising electricity costs - with annual price hikes now sitting at around 20% annually - going the solar route was the best financial decision. The Cape enjoys maximum solar irradiation levels and peak sun hours in the Western Cape average nearly 5 hours a day, making the move an ideal one.

As per the engineered design of the turnkey Solar PV system with full battery back-up, we are now projected to save around 70-80% of our energy costs and not suffer from down time during the multiple load shedding periods. The saving and the ability to continue working is difficult to quantify precisely, but it is quite substantial. There is nearly zero maintenance required for the system over the next 15-20 years.

The Solar PV rooftop array (roof orientation) is designed with a programme to maximise usable sun hours and the solar panels themselves are rated level tier 1 and have a design lifespan of 25 years.

Remote monitoring and control of the system is done by the service provider so as to ensure optimisation of the system at any time. All commissioning and registration with the local authorities was done by Solar Solutions Engineering SA (legal requirement in SA) which ensures we are compliant with all the regulatory bodies.

The battery storage (lithium-ion) is used to store the free excess solar power produced during sun peak hours and is an essential insurance against constant load-shedding or power outages.

As a responsible and an ethical business, the decision to go solar will ensure we are part of protecting the environment and reduce our carbon footprint substantially over the next few decades. Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd is dedicated to looking after the earth for the future generation.



PIENAAR BROS STAYS AHEAD OF THE TIMES

Spiro sees Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd as an important contributor towards health and safety in the workplace, and not just a supplier of PPE.

To maintain their position as a leading company, Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd has always put the interests and care of their staff ahead of profits. When Covid-19 was declared a pandemic during 2020, and Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd an essential service provider found itself at the forefront of PPE supplies, they immediately implemented measures to ensure their staff were properly protected. A fully-functioning Covid 19 caravan became part of their landscape to help minimise the spread of the illness and to care for their staff who became infected with the disease.

Training and educational facilities are also available offering their staff opportunities for growth and potential. The company's work-based education and training programmes comprise adult-based education while others are linked to qualifications that are registered with the South



African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

LEVEL 1 BBEEE

Towards the end of 2021 Pienaar Brothers (Pty) Ltd proudly achieved Level 1 BBEEE status. This opens doors for us to conduct business with government sectors in South Africa, including municipalities, as well as public entities. The certificate also allows the company to tender for contracts. The main purpose of the BEE classification is to show our company's commitment to making a positive difference in South Africa's society.



<https://www.pienaarbrothers.co.za>

