



After a press conference on April 20, Bendix managers and employees toured the site where the 2,612-panel solar array will soon stand. Construction on the project began this month and is scheduled to be completed in September.

# Local plant to construct solar array

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Huntington will soon be home to a large solar array. Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems announced yesterday.

At a press conference, plant manager Brian Lane said that work on the solar array has been underway for a few weeks, with construction projected to be completed by September. The array will consist of 2,612 panels, according to documents provided by Bendix. When operational the new solar array will produce 1.5 million kilowatt-hours

of electricity, reducing the plant's carbon footprint by 19 percent.

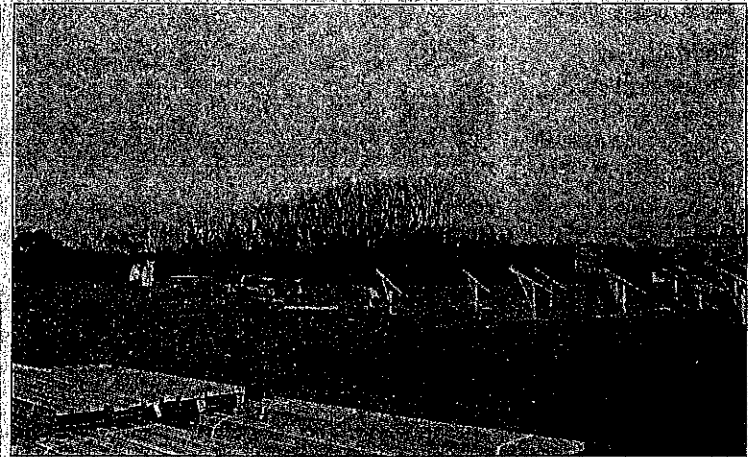
Lane, who has only worked at the company for the past three months, said that Bendix's emphasis on green energy drew him to apply for his position.

"One of the biggest sales pitches for me when you go online and you see all about environmental sustainability," Lane said. "The fact that this plant and other plants in North America are zero waste to landfill, the commitment to be carbon neutral in a short period of time is one of the things that attracted me to Bendix."

Over the past decade, the Bendix plant in Huntington has taken steps to reduce its industrial waste as well as its common trash. Last year, the entire company sent less than 16 tons of waste to landfills, less than one-tenth of one percent of total waste.

"We started it as a part of our Echo Two program. We started out with the low-hanging fruit: getting a lot of our lights changed out in our facility, looking at our HVAC," Bendix environment, health and safety manager Blake Tippmann said. "That got us

See SOLAR, page A2



Workers continue construction on the Bendix solar array on April 20. When completed, the array will reduce the plant's carbon footprint by 19 percent.

## SOLAR

From page A1

to the point where it started to make sense to bring in on-site renewables."

Maria Gutierrez, director of corporate responsibility and sustainability at Bendix, said that the plant's efforts to move toward sustainability were initially focused on cutting costs. However, German-based Bendix's

parent company specifically set aside a fund to assist plants like the one in Huntington in efforts to improve sustainable practices.

"The strategy was formulated by our parent company in Munich. It's a concerted effort for all of our operations, and we're trying to strategize and start with the largest consumers," Gutierrez said. "We're growing a lot, and we understand that in order to keep growing we need to grow sustainably. It

was important that we minimize our environmental footprint."

The solar array will be the first of its kind in North America for Bendix and Knorr-Bremse. Gutierrez said, although there are already European plants owned by the corporation that have similar arrays. Ultimately, the company aims to reduce carbon emissions at its plants worldwide by 2030, and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.