



## Harnessing the Sun at Le Selva!

**Phase I:** The campaign to move the La Selva Research Station to energy independence took a giant step forward on August 3, 2016 when 183 solar panels became operational! This first phase of the solar panel project was funded by the generosity of 129 donors who raised the \$65,000 needed to complete the installation.



**Phase II:** The second stage of the project was completed this summer and was made possible by a \$45,000 donation from USAID. This phase included the installation of 126 solar panels (for a total of 309 panels). This stage will allow us to reduce our current energy consumption by an additional 12% (an estimated saving of around \$ 7,700 per year), which, added to the previous one, represents an approximate saving of 22% of our annual consumption.



**Phase III:** We are now ready to launch the final and most ambitious phase of the project – the installation of an additional 930 solar panels at a cost of \$320,000. **Long-time La Selva researchers, David and Deborah Clark, have generously offered a 1:1 match to fund this final phase.**

The total cost of the 3 phases is approximately \$430,000 and will produce an annual savings of \$80,000 – providing a return on investment in less than six years. To see the location of all of the solar panels, please visit: [Map of Solar Panels](#)

To learn more about energy independence at La Selva and how you can support this effort, please contact Jim Boyle at [james.boyle@tropicalstudies.org](mailto:james.boyle@tropicalstudies.org) or at 360.920.6302.

You can also send a check payable to OTS to: Organization of Tropical Studies, BOX 90630, Durham, NC 27708-0630 (write Solare Panels) in memo.