Antigua and barbuda green electricity

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Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; March 9, 2024: The UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (UAE-CREF), announced today that the hurricane-resistant power project developed by Masdar for Antigua and Barbuda to withstand even the fiercest winds, is now operational.

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, which destroyed 95 percent of Barbuda on September 6, 2017, and forced all 1,800 residents to be evacuated to Antigua, the climate resistant plant is designed to survive 265 km-per-hour winds and provide a safe, reliable, and sustainable supply of electrical power for the island.

The hybrid solar, batteries, and back-up diesel project is already helping to support the twin-island nation"s objective of meeting 86 percent of its electricity sources from renewable energy by 2030.

The Green Barbuda project was formally inaugurated today at an event on the island of Barbuda by Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, H.E. Hazza Ahmed Al Kaabi, the UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba, and Ambassador Brian Challenger, the Ministry of Energy of Antigua and Barbuda, accompanied by a delegation from local and state entities.

Masdar developed and implemented the Green Barbuda project as part of its work under UAE-CREF, the largest renewable energy investment of its type in the region. Fully financed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), the US$50 million UAE-CREF was launched at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2017 as a partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), ADFD and Masdar. New Zealand, Antigua and Barbuda and the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) also provided funding for the project.

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, said, "This is a proud moment for everybody connected with this project to deliver clean energy to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. The Green Barbuda project will ensure a more resilient energy supply for the country, helping to accelerate economic growth and provide tangible benefits to local communities. Here at Masdar, we look forward to supporting other nations across the region through the UAE-CREF initiative."

The bespoke project combines a hybrid solar photovoltaic (PV) plant, featuring 720 kilowatts-peak (kWp) of solar PV panels, connected to a 863 kilowatt-hour (kWh) battery, and capable of fully meeting the island"s current daytime energy demand. The plant will enable Barbuda to reduce annual diesel fuel consumption by 406,000 liters and cut carbon dioxide emissions by over 1 million kg.

The UAE-CREF initiative intends to deploy renewable energy projects in 16 Caribbean countries in three cycles to reduce energy costs, increase energy access, and enhance climate resilience. Projects have already been successfully launched in the Bahamas, Barbados, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

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As the UAE"s clean energy powerhouse and one of the world"s leading renewable companies, Masdar is at the vanguard of advancing the development and deployment of renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies to address global sustainability challenges.

Established in 2006, Masdar is active in more than 40 countries and has more than 20GW of capacity including operational, under construction or advanced development projects in its worldwide portfolio. Masdar has invested, or committed to invest, in worldwide projects with a combined value of more than US$30 billion with ambitious growth plans to reach 100GW and 1 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.

Source-PV Magazine: A hybrid solar park developed and implemented by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Co. (Masdar) is now operational in the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Green Barbuda project is a hybrid solar, batteries and back-up diesel project, featuring a hybrid PV plant with 720 kWp of solar panels connected to a 863 kWh battery.

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