



First solar antigua and barbuda

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The project was developed in the wake of Hurricane Irma, which destroyed 95 percent of Barbuda on September 6, 2017. All 1,800 residents were evacuated to neighbouring Antigua.

UAE-CREF is the largest renewable energy investment of its type in the region, and is a partnership between the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, Masdar, New Zealand, Antigua and Barbuda and the CARICOM Development Fund.

The Barbuda project combines a hybrid solar photovoltaic (PV) plant features 720 kilowatts-peak (kWp) of solar PV panels, connected to an 863 kilowatt-hour (kWh) battery, which is capable of supplying all the island's daytime energy needs.

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, CEO of Masdar, said the Green Barbuda project was the first of several to come and he "looked forward to supporting other nations across the region".

Established in 2006, Masdar is active in more than 40 countries and has over 20GW of capacity including operational, under construction or advanced development projects in its worldwide portfolio.

The UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (UAE-CREF) proudly announces the operationalization of a hurricane-resistant power project in Antigua and Barbuda, developed by Masdar. Designed to withstand even the fiercest winds, the climate-resistant plant is a response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma in 2017, ensuring a reliable and sustainable supply of electrical power for Barbuda.

The hybrid solar, batteries, and backup diesel project, known as the Green Barbuda project, has been inaugurated on the island of Barbuda. The ceremony was attended 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, along with a delegation from local and state entities.

Masdar, implementing the project under UAE-CREF, has created a groundbreaking facility capable of withstanding winds of up to 265 km per hour. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, which caused the evacuation of Barbuda's entire population, this climate-resistant plant stands as a testament to resilience and sustainable development.

Othman Al Ali, CEO of Emirates Water and Electricity Company (EWEC), stated, "It is a landmark achievement for the UAE-CREF to have driven an energy transformation in Antigua and Barbuda at such a



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scale. The project took into consideration the country's high dependence on fossil fuel imports for energy needs despite having the potential to exploit its solar, wind, and geothermal power.”

Fully financed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), the \$50 million UAE-CREF aims to reduce energy costs, increase energy access, and enhance climate resilience in 16 Caribbean countries. The Green Barbuda project aligns with Antigua and Barbuda's goal to meet 86 percent of its electricity sources from renewable energy by 2030.

The bespoke project combines a hybrid solar photovoltaic (PV) plant with 720 kWp of solar PV panels connected to an 863 kWh battery, capable of meeting the island's current daytime energy demand. By reducing annual diesel fuel consumption by 406,000 liters and cutting carbon dioxide emissions by over 1 million kg, the project contributes significantly to environmental sustainability.

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