



# Belmopan solar energy research and development

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On Friday, August 17, 2012, the University of Belize was handed over a multi-million dollar project for introduction of clean energy by a solar electricity generation system. The facility is located at the Belmopan campus of the University of Belize and was funded under the grant aid for environment and climate change program by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Completion of the project took about a year and \$10Mil Bze and it represents a world of new possibilities for Belize and its environment, as the country takes hold of clean energy generation. UB President, Carey Frazer, explained at the inaugural ceremony that the facility will also be important to carry out research for the development of other green technologies.

Dr. Carey pointed out that the project is a symbol of Japanese support for Belize in encouraging the development of new energy technologies. He stated that the facility, located at the university, provides an opportunity for the development of scientific research capability among people at the university; particularly faculty, in collaboration with other public agencies including the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, Belize Electricity Limited and international agencies such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center.

Belize Hub enjoys the reputation of being all things to all people, appealing to consumers and business leaders alike. The Hub features informative blogs, timely news and community insights while serving as an online guide for anyone seeking answers to questions like, "What can I see, do, eat and experience while I'm here in Belize?"

On May 1, 2024, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) announced the 2024 Photovoltaics Research and Development (PVRD) funding opportunity, which will award up to \$20 million for innovative solar photovoltaics (PV) research and development (R&D) that reduces the cost of PV modules, reduces carbon and energy intensity of the PV supply chain and manufacturing process, and optimizes PV technology for new, specialized markets.

SETO anticipates making between 8 and 15 awards under this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) ranging from \$1 million to \$4 million. SETO encourages diverse teams to apply.

This topic seeks to develop innovative PV cell and minimodule prototypes to enable expanded deployment and identify pathways for reduction in PV module cost, decarbonization of manufacturing and supply chains, and expansion of PV into new and emerging sectors. While the funding opportunity is open to all projects focused on innovations in these areas, there are four areas of particular interest to DOE:



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This topic seeks to fund academic R& D projects requiring new or upgraded cadmium telluride (CdTe) research equipment. This will enhance the ability of research groups to rapidly make and test CdTe cells and improve their performance. This funding will also benefit the larger CdTe PV research community by facilitating rapid technological innovation in CdTe design and understanding of the materials and manufacturing processes.

DOE is compiling a Teaming Partner List to facilitate the formation of project teams for this FOA. The Teaming Partner List allows organizations that may wish to participate on a project to express their interest to other applicants and explore potential partnerships.

The Teaming Partner List is available on EERE eXCHANGE and will be regularly updated to reflect new teaming partners who provide their organization's information.

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:** View the Teaming Partner List by visiting the EERE eXCHANGE homepage and clicking on Teaming Partners within the left-hand navigation pane. This page allows users to view published Teaming Partner Lists. To join the Teaming Partner List, submit a request within eXCHANGE. Select the appropriate Teaming Partner List from the drop-down menu and fill in the following information: Investigator Name, Organization Name, Organization Type, Topic Area, Background and Capabilities, Website, Contact Address, Contact Email, and Contact Phone.

**DISCLAIMER:** By submitting a request to be included on the Teaming Partner List, the requesting organization consents to the publication of the above-referenced information. By facilitating the Teaming Partner List, DOE is not endorsing, sponsoring, or otherwise evaluating the qualifications of the individuals and organizations that are identifying themselves for placement on this Teaming Partner List. DOE will not pay for the provision of any information, nor will it compensate any applicants or requesting organizations for the development of such information.

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