



Saint Lucia microgrid development

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Arlington, VA - Today, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency awarded a technical assistance grant to Saint Lucia's National Utilities Regulatory Commission (NURC) that will advance the country's renewable power generation infrastructure and energy sector resilience. USTDA's assistance will help develop an enabling regulatory environment for renewables and assess the feasibility of implementing six solar-plus-storage microgrids at critical facilities in Saint Lucia. The NURC selected the Colorado-based RMI to carry out the assistance.

"USTDA's portfolio across the Caribbean has a strong focus on helping island economies such as Saint Lucia to develop resilient and sustainable energy infrastructure," said Ambassador Vinai Thummalapally (ret.), USTDA's Acting Director. "USTDA is linking its partners to U.S. solutions that will help mitigate the impact of climate change, which has a disproportionate impact on the people of the Caribbean."

USTDA's technical assistance will advance Saint Lucia's efforts to build resilient microgrid infrastructure that can withstand severe weather events and provide continued power supply to hospitals, schools, communications towers, and water treatment plants. The assistance will enable NURC to prepare, develop and de-risk Saint Lucia's first aggregated critical facilities microgrid project, with the goal of providing an enabling regulatory environment that could allow future replication.

Justin Locke, Managing Director of RMI's Global South Program said: "Nowhere is the business case clearer or the need to transition to resilient distributed energy resources more urgent than in places like Saint Lucia. As we have seen over the last five years with the likes of Hurricane Maria, Irma and Dorian, these events expose how vulnerable Caribbean electricity grids are. If a storm shuts down an island's power plant, the entire island goes dark. Rather than waiting to rebuild smarter after a disaster event, Saint Lucia is demonstrating proactive leadership - thanks to USTDA."

This activity supports USTDA's Global Partnership for Climate-Smart Infrastructure, which connects U.S. industry to major clean energy and transportation infrastructure projects in emerging markets. It also supports the Biden Administration's Small and Less Populous Island Economies (SALPIE) Initiative.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority infrastructure projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project preparation and partnership building activities that develop sustainable infrastructure and foster economic growth in partner countries.

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