



CARBON-FREE GLOBAL ECONOMIES

ISLANDS ENERGY PROGRAM

Accelerating the transition of island economies from fossil fuel dependence to a more resilient and affordable energy future powered by efficiency and renewables.

THE ISSUE

Islands emit less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gases yet find themselves at the front lines of climate change impacts—such as sea-level rise, increasing temperatures, and extreme weather events. This was never more evident than the 2017 hurricane season, which was the most costly on record and devastated many island nations.

The diesel that powers island economies today is extremely expensive and unhealthy for residents, costing on average US\$0.35/kWh compared with US\$0.10/kWh in the mainland U.S. The Caribbean islands import the majority of their fuel, exacerbating their vulnerability to disaster events and global oil price fluctuations.

OUR SOLUTION

Island nations possess abundant wind and sun which can be harnessed to provide clean, affordable, local energy. Incorporating renewables into existing energy infrastructures benefits utilities, governments, and customers. Along with these and other partners, RMI works to advance the shift to renewable energy with an integrated approach that includes three types of activities:

- **Planning resilient energy systems** with strategic action plans
- **Preparing and commercializing low-risk projects** lowering the financial and political risk with renewable energy demonstrations
- **Building capacity and fostering knowledge exchange** with a member association comprised of hundreds of professionals

WHO WILL BENEFIT

We work with the following islands: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Colombia (San Andrés and Providencia), Grenada, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Turks and Caicos.

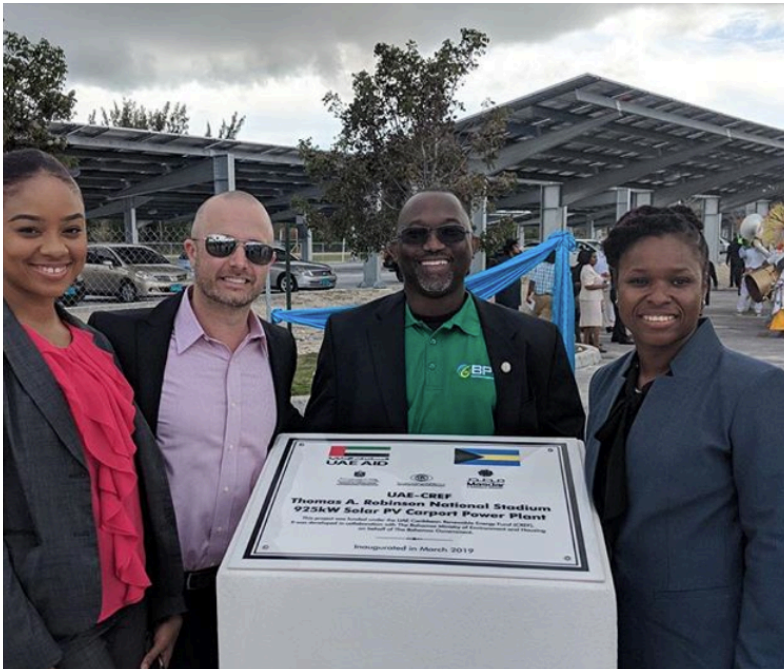
By accelerating the transition of these islands toward an energy system that includes renewable energy and energy efficiency, these countries will benefit from:

- Stabilized electricity costs for households and businesses
- Reduced dependence on foreign oil
- Enhanced resilience to natural disasters
- Improved investment opportunities and returns on-island
- A more diverse local job market with high-skilled, better-paying jobs

THE IMPACT

The Islands Energy Program is working with island partners to develop clean energy pathways to achieve a high level of renewable energy penetration which can mitigate climate change, improve energy resilience, lead to lower electricity costs for residents, and improve their economies by creating the energy jobs of the future. Other program goals for the Caribbean include the following:

- Installing 95 megawatts of renewable energy capacity
- Creating 2,500–3,500 new local jobs, of which at least 40% would be filled by women
- Mobilizing US\$300 million in financing for clean energy projects
- Developing eight resilience-focused national energy transition plans





FINANCIALS

The fundraising goal for RMI’s Islands Energy Program is \$2M for 2019–2020. This will support the team’s impacts referenced above.

CAUSE THEMES

- Environment and Climate
- Poverty
- Economic Empowerment
- Women and Girls

REGIONS

- Caribbean

“Caribbean Islands have some of the highest electricity rates in the world, despite also having abundant sun, wind, and tidal energy resources. Shifting from fossil fuels to renewables is not only good for the environment, in these islands it also lifts a huge economic burden.”

-President Bill Clinton



ABOUT ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)—an independent nonprofit founded in 1982—transforms global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future. It engages businesses, communities, institutions, and entrepreneurs to accelerate the adoption of market-based solutions that cost-effectively shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables. In 2014, RMI merged with Carbon War Room (CWR), whose business-led market interventions advance a low-carbon economy. The combined organization has offices in Basalt and Boulder, Colorado; New York City; Washington, D.C.; and Beijing.

GET INVOLVED

Join us to advance islands toward a clean, renewably-powered future.

Learn more: www.rmi.org or contact

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