

This is a proud moment for the Government and people of Montserrat, Montserrat Utilities Ltd. and our project partners to witness



today, a historic moment. After 23 plus years post volcanic crisis, clean green Renewal Energy is on the National Grid.

Integrating renewable energy on the grid is a significant achievement.

On taking office in 2014 my first observation was that renewable on the grid was restricted to geothermal. It was apparent that we will continue to pursue geothermal however with all the factors considered it was likely to take a long time waiting for drilling of wells, surface plant development and transmission lines before power gets to the grid.

The decision was then made to introduce a wider vision to include several renewable energy sources in the mix. After accessing cost, time for development and construction, starting with solar, the development of a utility scaled solar plant became a parallel priority along with geothermal. Solar as is evident today is the quickest way to bring relief to the people of Montserrat. Serious consideration is also given to wind turbine.

While this first phase of 250kw solar plant represents in excess of 10% peak demand renewable energy on the grid, what is even more impressive, is that in completing the 1MW plant with batteries, renewable energy on the grid will produce 40% of the power peak demand generated. We will see even greater reduction on fuel surcharge and greater savings for consumers on their electricity bills, once the installation of the 1 Mw solar project is completed. This will result in greater fuel savings, lower fuel surcharge and a savings on our electricity bills.

To put this into perspective, 45% of fuel imported is spent on electricity generation, a yearly average of EC\$8.4 Million dollars. This is paid by us the MUL consumers.

After hearing those figures paid by you the consumers, I am 100% sure, you are now all on board with this solar initiative and vision. We now look forward to the quick completion of the 750kw next phase to follow shortly, taking it to 1Mw of solar on the grid.

This will reduce the burden on consumers giving them more disposable income, to enjoy their hard earned money!

The vision to embrace various forms of renewal energy sources is reflected in the national energy policy **the power to change**. This policy was created and approved by the present government. This comprehensive program is geared to **achieving energy security, reducing cost of electricity and contribute to a healthy environment**.

Our overall sustainable energy program is focus on **renewable energy, energy efficiency** and **electric mobility**. The mix of renewable energy sources include but not limited to **Solar, Geothermal and wind**.

Energy efficiency projects include retrofitting of LED street lights, installing solar street lights, use of LED lights and energy efficient appliances in commercial and domestic buildings.

The installation of electric chargers under the 250kw project, at the main MCWEL headquarters parking lot and the mechanic workshop is in preparation for the charging of our first electric car the Nissan Leaf expected to arrive on island as part of a pilot program.

The pilot will inform of the performance and savings using an electric car for transportation.

There is a keen interest, given 47% of fuel imported is consumed by the transportation sector.

The mechanics, students and first responders can look forward to participating in knowledge exchange training workshops, on maintaining and responding to any incidents. Workshops held for electricians and students on the solar installation of the 250kw were well attended with attendants fully engaged.

This government has demonstrated that working with local, regional, international expertise, and the European Union funding Montserrat can boast of a world class energy policy, strategy and implementation plan and the

implementation of actual energy projects. It is now evident the energy projects finance by grant funds from the **European Union**, as part of our sustainable energy program are being rolled out successfully.

We express thanks to the European Union for the **EDF10 and EDF11 funding from the European Union, financing projects of this type with real benefits for the people of Montserrat.**

The 250KW utility scale solar plant which was integrated onto the grid in March 2019, surpassed its target of 10%, which meant that Government of Montserrat met **one of the European Union key performance indicators a condition that allow access to another tranche of funds.**

Montserrat collaborative approach to achieve energy security consist of several local, regional and international partners. Mention must be made of the project manager **Owen Lewis, MCWEL permanent secretary Mrs Beverley Mendes, Rawlson Patterson, Felix Persuad, Marissa Allen , Lowence Cabey, Alex James and all staff of MCWEL that made this possible, MUL managing Director Mr Kendal Lee and staff, Honourable Premier and minister of finance Hon Donaldson Romeo, Colin Owen EU TAO, ministry of finance project team and procurement team, Human resource department, the Hon Deputy Governor for her general support and loaning of her staff, physical Planning , our local press, regional and international press**

Our regional partner **CARICOM with special mention of Dr Devon Gardener Program manager of the CARICOM Energy Unit,**

Our international partners include the **European Union with EDF 10 and EDF 11 Funding, GIZ- REETA, Carbon War Room, Rocky Mountain Institute, IRENA and mega power.**

This 250kw utility scaled solar project engineering procurement and construction contractor is SALT Energy, client engineers STANTEC, local subcontractors HIGHTEC Elec Roland Irish and his crew, on the electrical side and the Galloway group mechanical and civil.

The Government of Montserrat is proud to hand over to Montserrat Utilities Limited the completed 250kw utility scaled solar project the first phase of the 1Mw solar project.

|