



Barbados energy storage for demand response

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Barbados is a step closer to launching its first procurement project for Battery Energy Storage Systems to support the grid and unlock stalled Solar PV connections.

The Ministry of Energy and Business is currently hosting a three-day Procurement Design Workshop with key stakeholders to discuss and make critical decisions with regard to procuring Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Barbados has reached the maximum capacity of the electric grid and the Barbados Light and Power Company has been advising that it is unable to connect homeowners and residential PV systems to the grid without the addition of storage.

The workshop is the culmination of the outputs of a consortium of experts in storage systems, who began supporting Barbados at the beginning of 2024 to address the gridlock challenge and advance the renewable energy transition.

In brief opening remarks at the Warrens Office Complex, on Friday, Minister of Energy and Business, Senator Lisa Cummins, said: "This has been an absolutely urgent priority for our Government, and the partners have spent a lot of time collaborating with my amazing team because they understand how critical this is....

"The discussions over the next few days will take us into closure on the process where we can get battery energy storage systems into the country. In many ways this is a watershed moment that many have been waiting for."

Minister of Energy Senator Lisa Cummins is expecting both local and international bids as Barbados moves closer to its first procurement for battery energy storage systems (BESS) which will unlock the grid and allow for the onboarding of renewable energy. The government, through the Ministry of Energy and partners, is giving Barbadians and other entities the opportunity to respond to a Call for Request for Information (RFI) for new battery storage capacity. The Call for RFI is the stage prior to the launch of the Competitive Procurement Process for the implementation of 60 megawatts of battery energy storage systems.

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Regulators in the Eastern Caribbean island nation of Barbados have opened up a pathway for the widespread deployment of energy storage.

Barbados is targeting becoming a 100% renewable energy and carbon neutral economy by 2030. It currently



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depends on imported fossil fuels for the vast majority of its power generation. In 2018, Barbados spent US\$253 million on importing fuels.

In order to support reaching the ambitious goal, authorities have identified energy storage as a critical tool that can also drive investment in the economy.

Towards the end of June, the independent British Commonwealth country's Fair Trading Commission (FTC), ordered that a four-year pilot deployment of battery energy storage systems (BESS) should be conducted.

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Web: <https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

