



# Energy storage investment bahamas

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RAGGED ISLAND, The Bahamas - A battery energy storage system and a solar rooftop programme are among initiatives of the Bahamas Government toward cleaner energy nationwide.

"We are investing \$14.2 million in installing a 25 MW battery energy storage system at the Baillou Hill Power Plant. Additionally, our administration will budget \$1.9 million for our solar rooftop program, so that clinics, public libraries and schools can be part of our nation's renewable energy progress. I am excited to announce that the Ministry of Public Works is assessing eight government buildings for this programme," said the Hon. Philip Davis, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Thirty-five million dollars have also been earmarked for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems in the Family Islands and feasibility studies for Inagua, Mayaguana, Acklins, Crooked Island, Long Cay and North Andros have also been concluded.

The Prime Minister made the announcements at the commissioning of Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) Ragged Island solar microgrid, Friday, August 12, 2022.

Following the one-hour ceremony, he clipped the ribbon signaling the official commissioning of the southern island's solar microgrid, which secured Best Resilience Project Award at Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF) industry awards for 2022. The awards recognize excellence in projects, programs and people promoting clean energy transition in the Caribbean.

Prime Minister Davis said the event was first and foremost about the people of Ragged Island.

"The people - the many people - who worked to make today possible - local residents, non-profits, the private sector, and government policy-makers and workers, too. And today is also about all the people of The Bahamas, who recognize that small communities in our Family Islands are an essential thread in our national fabric and deserve our robust commitment and support.

"Every family and every business in The Bahamas knows that energy costs are too high, service is too unreliable, and past promises of progress haven't panned out. And every Bahamian knows that climate change is a real threat - not in some distant future, but right now. If there was ever any doubt, Irma and Dorian erased those doubts with a vengeance.

"And as we continue our advocacy on the world stage for change - including an important meeting for regional governments which we will host right here in our country next week - we need to walk the walk, too. We



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contribute a tiny, tiny percentage of the world's emissions, but we are going to be part of climate solutions in many ways in the years to come, including by keeping our own commitment to generate at least 30% of our energy from renewable sources by 2030. This investment in Ragged Island means greener energy and less dependence on subsidies, and crucially - it means more resilience in the face of future hurricanes."

"We will invest more than \$36 million in renewable infrastructure in Abaco and East Grand Bahama. The focus of this investment in Abaco will include \$18 million for the restoration of electricity services and the rehabilitation of physical infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Dorian. We will also invest \$4.5 million in the installation of five microgrids in East End Grand Bahama."

Pedro Rolle, BPL Chairman, described the occasion as "momentous" and worthy of celebration. He said it is also an indication that BPL is "able" and "ready" to partially or completely solarize energy supply in any of its territories in keeping with the national energy policy and The Bahamas' goal of renewable energy by 2030.

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