



# Port vila california solar energy

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Director of Energy Garae briefing the Pacific Ministers of Energy and Transport at the Parliament solar grid system

Throughout this week, the ministers from the Pacific Island Countries (PIC) have been discussing how to direct their transport and energy sectors away from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

When briefing the ministers and officials during yesterday's field trip, Vanuatu's Director of Energy, Anthony Garae, said the system has helped reduce the government's electricity cost since it was commissioned in 2015 through funds from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government.

The system has two components, one located at the Ministry of Climate Change building and one at the Parliament Complex connected directly to the UNELCO grid and generating 20,000 megawatts annually.

The facility at the Parliament complex consists of a 767-kilowatt solar Photovoltaic (PV) system.

According to the Principal Scientific Officer-Urban Electrification from the Department of Energy, Joseph Temakon, the system has allowed the government to sell power to the utility at a maximum of VT21 per Kwh and has generated a revenue of over VT11 million since it was established.

"So far in terms of production, we have offset 1,600 megawatts/hour, saving 400 megawatts/hours," he said.

"UNELCO will purchase power from the grid only when there is excess. The system at Parliament has 2,189 panels and 396 panels at the MoCC Complex."

Renewable sources like solar emits little to no green house gases.

The Minister of Climate Change, Ralph Regenvanu, said the government is looking for sponsors for batteries for the system to save more energy.

Minister Regenvanu and Parliament staff members led the delegates on a tour inside the Parliament House before visiting the solar grid system at the Parliament Car Park.

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