



THE TEN ISLAND CHALLENGE

Goal

To accelerate the transition of Caribbean island economies from a heavy dependence on fossil fuels to renewable resources

Situation

Caribbean economies suffer from some of the highest electricity prices in the world—perpetuating poverty, contributing to their national debts, and preventing any form of sustainable development.

Despite an abundance of sun and wind, Caribbean islands have implemented relatively low amounts of renewables to date, as a result of several barriers, such as long-term fossil fuel contracts and issues with local permitting. As a consequence, Caribbean countries spend a large portion of their GDP on imported fossil fuels thereby constraining socioeconomic development.

And, while Caribbean countries emit less than 1% of total global greenhouse gases, they are bearing the brunt of climate change, facing nearer-term impacts from sea-level rise, increasing temperatures, and extreme weather events.

Opportunity

Vision: Economically robust islands, rich with renewable energy systems and committed to becoming completely fossil fuel free.

Caribbean islands are in an unique position to reduce their dependence on imported fossil fuels and benefit from the positive environmental, social, and economic impacts of using sustainable energy sources.

They can combine their abundant renewable resources with economically viable technologies to become more independent and resilient.

Impact

By accelerating the transition of islands to renewable energy sources, we can:

- Reduce the cost of electricity for households and businesses
- Increase private investment on-island
- Enhance and diversify the local job market with higher-skilled, better-paying jobs
- Improve energy efficiency
- Reduce each island's emissions
- Reduce each island's dependence on imported fossil fuels

In the process, we will demonstrate that entire economies can transition to low-carbon solutions while improving their long-term viability.

Our Partnership

In early 2014, Carbon War Room (CWR) and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) formed a partnership to accelerate the energy transition of participating countries in the Caribbean. The partnership aims to address the barriers and identify technical and commercial solutions to facilitate low-carbon energy use in the Caribbean. To kick-

start this process, the Creating Climate Wealth Islands Summit in February 2014 accelerated progress, generating numerous island commitments.

Working closely with island governments and stakeholders, CWR and RMI are now identifying each island's optimum energy future by:

- Developing a framework that drives implementation
- Catalyzing the flow of capital to renewables
- Creating an open playing field for technology providers to deliver solutions



Caribbean leaders demonstrated their commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency on Richard Branson's home of Necker Island



The current island members of the challenge include Aruba, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, the Colombian islands of San Andrés and Providencia, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Turks and Caicos.

Approach

CWR, RMI, and our implementing partners will help scale renewable projects and support the capacity of islands to achieve their sustainable energy goals by delivering technical expertise, engaging with governments and island stakeholders, and providing communications support.

We will:

- Help islands identify their specific renewable energy goals
- Help build capacity across the region to enable future project planning, design, and implementation
- Develop an enabling environment for project financing across the region

Our approach is facilitated by a comprehensive plan that provides clear guidance, steps, and helpful tools for islands to develop and execute their renewable energy vision.

Background

At Rio+20, Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, challenged the Carbon War Room to work with ten Caribbean islands to accelerate their transition off fossil fuels. We accepted that challenge and formed the Ten Island Challenge.

Progress

To date, we have had wide-ranging success, including:

- Bringing renewables to Sir Richard Branson's home on Necker Island
- Working with the Aruban government to create recommendations for their transition to a low-carbon future
- Solidifying numerous commitments during the Creating Climate Wealth Island Summit on Necker Island, including:
 - Regional commitments focused on renewables and energy efficiency
 - Country-level commitments to projects, ranging from a 10MW solar development to implementing energy-efficiency measures at an island hospital

Engage with Us

Participate in our bidding process at carbonwarroom.com/about-us/jobs, if you are:

- **A company offering renewable solutions**

Contact Justin Locke at jlocke@carbonwarroom.com if you are:

- **An island interested in joining the Challenge**
- **An investor interested in funding a renewable project**
- **A potential donor**

Carbon War Room

The Carbon War Room is a global nonprofit, founded by Sir Richard Branson and a team of like-minded entrepreneurs, that accelerates the adoption of business solutions that reduce carbon emissions at gigaton scale and advances the low-carbon economy. The organization focuses on solutions that can be realized using proven technologies under current policy landscapes.

Rocky Mountain Institute

Since 1982, Rocky Mountain Institute has advanced market-based solutions that transform global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure future. An independent, nonprofit think-and-do tank, RMI engages with business, communities, and institutions to accelerate and scale replicable solutions that drive the cost-effective shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables.

The Team

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