

KEEPING THE POWER ON

It is always the small pieces that make the big picture. Since Caribbean Utilities Company, Ltd. (“CUC”) first turned the lights on in Grand Cayman in 1966, continuous investment in a safe and reliable power-generating infrastructure over the last 53 years has provided the foundation for both the growth of CUC and the development of Grand Cayman.

Our vision is “Empowering Cayman to be a Global Leader.” Without electricity, commercial consumers such as banks and supermarkets could not provide modern services which the general populace has become accustomed and residential customers could not maintain the quality lifestyle that makes Grand Cayman a globally attractive place to live.

Having a reliable and environmentally-friendly energy provider such as CUC is necessary to keep Grand Cayman competitive in the world-class tourism and financial services industries and to facilitate economic development initiatives going forward.

Although a difficult time to reflect on, the hardships endured after Hurricane Ivan in 2004 is an example of an economy without electricity. In one way or another, all residents experienced a disruption with food refrigeration, medical equipment, elevators and telecommunications. A time we survived but would not want to endure again.

Though the value of electricity can be underestimated, the improvement in our standard of living has relied heavily upon CUC’s advancements in new technologies, renewable energy opportunities and highly trained employees. Our 244 employees, 86% of whom are Caymanians, deem it a privilege to serve the people of Grand Cayman.

CUC remains focused on the fuel efficiency of our generators to ensure that the company maximizes the amount of electricity we deliver to consumers from each gallon of fuel, while researching alternative sources of energy to reduce the reliance on diesel to generate electricity. In 2016, the company commissioned its newest engine room, which remains one of the most fuel efficient in the Caribbean region.

Currently, there are 396 customers with a renewable generation capacity of 5.3 megawatts generating electricity through the Customer Owned Renewable Energy (CORE) programme. The 5 megawatt Solar Farm located in Bodden Town provides energy to power approximately 800 homes.

CUC’s Integrated Resource Plan gives shape to the Island’s energy generation



plans for the next 30 years. The implementation phase of the plan will be an exciting period for CUC and electricity consumers, with a rapid increase in renewables connected to the grid which will provide cleaner energy at competitive and more stable costs.

The Utility Regulation and Competition Office also recently approved a 20 megawatt Utility-scale Battery Storage project with the primary function of providing instantaneous reserve in the event of sudden loss of power generation. Presently the instantaneous or ‘spinning’ reserve is provided by running diesel engines and displacing the diesel with the battery will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of Grand Cayman. The battery also has the ability to react faster than the existing plant, reducing the risk of customer outages caused by loss of generation.

CUC remains committed to meeting the challenges which come with providing

a highly reliable service on a small island system while investing in the young people of our community through financial commitments, in-kind donations and volunteer opportunities in the areas of education, sports, health and culture to name a few.

Best-selling author Margaret J. Wheatley said, “There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” We are much more than poles and wires. We are performing tasks that are of paramount importance to the ongoing well-being and development of the people of the Cayman Islands, making it a desirable place to work, live and visit and to love. ♥



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