

Newsletter 07/16 Smart Solar Off-Grid for La Gracia

A successful project implementation depends on having all stakeholders on board as well as to have all necessary hardware on-site to start the installation. This was the main focus during the



past weeks. Mr. Deon Kelly from the Ministry of Energy conducted an inventory check and ensured, that the main hardware components are indeed on-site and ready to be installed.

In May and June 2016 we welcomed several delegations from different project stakeholders.



Representatives from cdw Stiftungsverbund in Germany visited the project site in La Gracia. Besides being a donor toward the project, cdw Stiftungsverbund also brings a vast background in the development of business models for rural electrification projects.



They shared their valuable expertise and experiences with the project managers of ZENNA and the local installer SESB as well as with the Ministry of Energy.



The Smart Solar Off-Grid Project in La Gracia gained even further international attention, as Mrs. Maria Salaverria from United Nations Industrial Development Organization UNIDO visited the project site. She is the coordinator for Sustainable Energy in the region of Central America.



Meanwhile, work continued on-site. The structure for the solar panels was being welded and enforced and the drains for grounding and to the first power substations have been dug - yes, by hand. Quite some blisters needed some attention during those days, as the soil proves to be very rocky! As soon as the fence is completed, installation of the solar hardware will start.



We are thankful for the continuous support of the Government of Belize, namely the Ministry of Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities. It is substantial for the success of this project.



Minister Hon. Frank Mena, CEO Dr. Peter Allen and Energy Director Mr. Ambrose Tillett of the Ministry of Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities met with the local installer SESB in La Gracia village to gain a first hand impression of the progress made.



The visit of Minister Hon. Frank Mena and his delegation caused quite some excitement amongst the students and their teachers. When the kids were asked, if they were looking forward to get electricity, one student answered: "We are waiting for the internet that comes with it!"



Such a visit is certainly not an everyday occurrence, so it was recorded in the school principal's "special guests & historical events" book.





Smart Solar Off-Grid for La Gracia.

ZENNA also developed the updated presentation video of the Smart Solar Off-Grid. The movie is available online on vimeo:

vimeo <https://vimeo.com/145614639>

ZENNA's Smart Solar Off-Grid for La Gracia Project is also displayed online on the REPIC-platform of the Swiss federal offices SECO, SDC and SFOE:

<http://www.repic.ch/repic-en/projects/ongoing-projects/photovoltaics/zenna-belize/>

