



---

## Press Release

---

### The official launch of the LAIT UP BELIZE! project

The Government of Belize and the European Union have partnered under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Financing Agreement to provide technical assistance to the Belize Energy Unit in the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics for the implementation of the Belize Sustainable Energy Roadmap. This multi-year collaborative project is referred to as the LAIT UP BELIZE! project and the overall objective is “Universal access to electricity from a clean and productive energy sector in Belize”.

The official launch of the LAIT UP BELIZE! project took place on the early evening of Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at the Belize Best Western Biltmore Plaza in Belize City. The launch took place strictly in terms of the prevailing COVID protocols and with the formal approval and authorisation by the Ministry of Health. Invited guests included key stakeholders and implementing partners such as the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics, Ministry of Rural Transformation, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), National Authorizing Office (NAO), GFA Consulting Group, the EU delegation team, and others.

The speakers at the launch included Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics (MPUEL), Mr. Marconi Leal, CEO of MPUEL, Mr. Ryan Cobb, Director of the Energy Unit and Mr. Mirco Schroder, EU programme officer based in Belize.



Figure 1 - Opening Remarks delivered by Glynn Morris, Team Leader of the LAIT UP BELIZE! project



Figure 2 - LAIT UP BELIZE! Project Launch

The project launch complemented the other events and activities that take place in Energy Month – the regional Energy Month that is convened annually by CARICOM in November. The project launch served to highlight the goals and objectives of the LAIT UP BELIZE! Project as well as reporting on outputs that have already been achieved while presenting the next steps going forward. A special highlight at the project launch was the unveiling and prize-giving by CEO Marconi Leal, Jr. of the winning artworks the of the Energy Unit's Digital Art Competition.

The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Financing Agreement was signed in 2019 and the LAIT UP BELIZE! project team was established in early 2021. The project will run until December 2024.

The first component of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Financing Agreement supports the supply, installation and operation of hybrid solar/diesel powered electricity mini-grids by BEL to villages in Belize that currently have no access of electricity. The second component introduces an electric mobility pilot initiative in the public transport sector. The third component – namely, the LAIT UP BELIZE! Project – provides technical support towards capacity building in the energy sector of Belize, focuses on improving energy governance through data analysis, strategic planning, and regulations. The project is also supporting the implementation of the rural electrification which will be executed by BEL and works closely with the Ministry's Energy Unit in achieving the targets of the Belize Energy Sector.

Over the next three years, the LAIT UP BELIZE! project anticipates a fully productive and resilient transition in the energy sector of Belize.

For further information, please contact Mr. Glynn Morris, Team Leader of the LAIT UP BELIZE! project, [glynn.morris@gfa-group.de](mailto:glynn.morris@gfa-group.de).

- END -