

## Energy development strategy is conceived

Category: News

Created: Friday, 22 January 2021 11:32 - Last Updated: Friday, 22 January 2021 11:32

Written by webmaster

Hits: 565

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The Citizen Portal informs that Isla de la Juventud conceives its energy development strategy in accordance with Cuba's purposes of covering 24 percent of electricity generation by 2030 with renewable energy sources (FRE).

Although almost all the inhabitants of the special municipality benefit from this service, access for all to non-polluting energy is Cuba's policy in compliance with one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, said Antonio Figueredo Matos, main specialist of the Development Group of the electricity company.

Therefore, promoting the use of FRE -whose participation does not exceed five percent in the system- is a priority for locals, since more than 90 percent of generation is from fossil fuel (fuel oil and diesel ), expensive in the international market, he said.

He emphasized that the most expeditious way to achieve this goal is to increase the use of biomass, viable as the territory has more than 60 percent of forest cover and takes advantage of the existence of power lines approximately one kilometer away from the possible locations of the parks photovoltaic solar.

The engineer pointed out that two work projects with external financing pave the way for in a first stage (2020-2024) to reach a 19 percent share of these RES in electricity generation and in a second (2025-2030) to comply with the policy from the country.

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The first of these projects contributes to the improvement of the electricity supply from the installation of equipment that stabilizes the system and in turn lays the foundations for the second, destined to the site of 14.3 megawatts (MW) with additional storage capacity in batteries of four MW explained.

He added that in the second stage (2025-2030) the strategy is to reach the 24 percent required by the country's policy, in order to promote access for all to clean energy and in compliance with one of the Sustainable Development Goals. of the United Nations.

However, we identify as a handicap to local energy development that 85 percent of electricity grids are vulnerable to the impact of tropical organisms because they are aerial, the US blockade of Cuba limits the stable import of spare parts and the existence of three isolated generation subsystems (Cayo Largo del Sur, Cocodrilo and northern part of Isla de la Juventud), he cited.

Figueredo Matos said that to achieve efficiency in the use of FRE, it is necessary to change consumption habits in the residential sector because the peaks in demand are registered at night and early morning.

