

Project Portfolio: Solar Installation on Council Facilities

Project Title:

Solar Energy Installation Project – Phase 1: 20no. Primary Schools and 1no. Fire Station

Implementing Authority:

City of Francistown Council (COFC)

Partner Organization:

African Sun Energy (ASE) Pty Ltd – in partnership through the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Francistown Clean Energy Hub (FCEH)

Project Objectives:

- Reduce Energy Expenditure: Significantly cut electricity costs from BPC-supplied power across council facilities.
- Promote Clean and Sustainable Energy: Contribute to environmental sustainability by generating clean, renewable solar energy.
- Revenue Generation through RTS Program: Participate in the BPC Rooftop Solar (RTS) Program to sell surplus power to the grid, thereby generating revenue for the City Council.
- Enhance Financial Sustainability: The project operates under a no direct capital expenditure model for COFC, as the installation costs are fully covered by the partner (ASE).
- Maximize Early Financial Savings: Monthly payments to the SPV (FCEH), in which COFC holds a 10% equity share and ASE holds 90%, are structured to replace existing BPC bill payments, allowing cost savings from the initial stages of implementation.

Project Overview:

The Solar Energy Installation Project is a strategic renewable energy initiative spearheaded by the City of Francistown Council (COFC) in partnership with African Sun Energy (ASE) Pty Ltd through the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Francistown Clean Energy Hub (FCEH). The project aims to transition council facilities towards sustainable and cost-efficient energy sources by harnessing solar power for electricity generation.

Phase 1 of the project focuses on 21 sites, comprising 20 primary schools and 1 fire station. The installations are conducted under the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) Rooftop Solar (RTS) Program, allowing the facilities to generate, utilize, and sell excess solar energy to the grid.

Current Progress (as of October 2025):

Facility	System Capacity (kWh)	Status	Remarks
Tagala Primary School	24.75 kWh	100% Complete	Fully registered under BPC RTS Program
Lekgaba Primary School	29.7 kWh	100% Complete	Fully registered under BPC RTS Program
Mahudiri Primary School	29.7 kWh	55% Complete	Awaiting DB, inverter, and cable installation

Implementation Model:

- Ownership Structure: COFC holds a 10% stake in FCEH (SPV), while ASE holds 90%.
- Funding Model: Zero upfront installation cost to COFC.
- Revenue Model: Energy cost savings realized through reduced BPC bills and RTS program returns.
- Sustainability Framework: Long-term reduction in carbon footprint and dependency on grid electricity.

Next Steps:

- Complete installation works at Mahudiri Primary School.
- Commence installations at remaining 18 Phase 1 sites.
- Begin monitoring and performance evaluation of completed systems under RTS metering.
- Prepare for Phase 2, targeting clinics and other council facilities.

Expected Impact:

- Reduction of council electricity expenditure by over 40% across completed facilities.
- Increased contribution to Botswana's national clean energy goals.
- Creation of a sustainable financial model for public infrastructure energy management.