

Curitiba, Brazil:

# Solar Pyramid

Model:  
Business-Focused International  
Partnerships

Curitiba built the first solar plant on a landfill in Latin America and the **largest urban solar farm in Brazil**. With an international partnership, the project also incorporated **gender-specific measures** in the tender process to generate good, green jobs for women.



## THE CHALLENGE

While the main source of electricity in Curitiba is hydroelectric, recent droughts have increased reliance on gas and coal to make up the shortfall. At the same time, the Caximba landfill on the city's outskirts was active from 1989 to 2010, having filled **12 million tons of waste**.



## HOW IT WORKS

Building on the city's renewable energy strategy, "**Curitiba Mais Energia**", the municipality approached the C40 Cities Finance Facility, to form a partnership that would include technical support and additional funding.

With 8,500 solar panels and 8 MW installed capacity, the Solar Pyramid supplies clean energy for public buildings. The energy runs through public energy company COPEL's network and the company then deducts the value of that energy from the city's bill. The project **saves around 30% of the energy bill** of public buildings - US\$500,000 per month that can be used for other public services. Curitiba spent roughly US\$6,000,000 on implementation.

When contracting the solar installation companies, the bidding notice had a particular focus on **employing and training women**. Specifically, it included hiring a gender and race focal point, while encouraging a minimum number of female workers and a company gender equity policy.



In 2020 and 2021 the project also delivered 10 online training modules for the sector and an in-person training programme, supported by a local university.



## LESSONS

By **leveraging an international partnership**, Curitiba could use the additional technical support, training, and funding to promote a green economy and encourage sustainable, gender-sensitive business practices through policy-making.

In this regard, a city's procurement process can incorporate specific requirements and measures to **improve gender inclusivity** and develop **good, green jobs**.

The project was successfully implemented because there was strong political will from elected officials, particularly Council and the Mayor.