

# PANORAMA



## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

A new age beckons the twin islands as economic returns open the path to industrial diversification and innovation



Stunning properties and projects available for investors, including at Pearn's Point and across Barbuda



Antigua has 365 beaches — one for each day of the year — and Barbuda is famous for its beaches



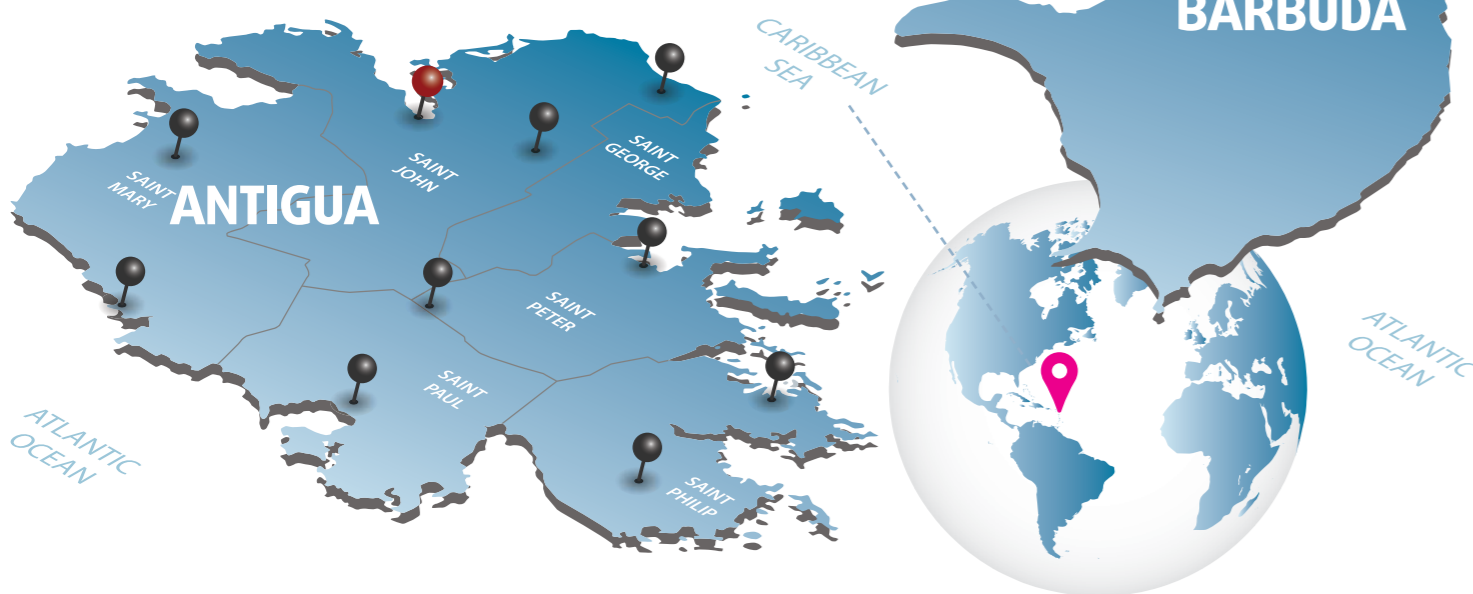
The islands are very well connected: internet penetration was 91.4% at the start of 2024



The corporate tax rate is 25%; no taxes on wealth, capital gains on global income or inheritance

# Antigua and Barbuda in numbers

Antigua and Barbuda are known for their pristine beaches and radiant Caribbean waters and rightly so, but there is so much more to the twin islands than that



**2040:** Year pledged to be carbon neutral



**86%:** renewable energy for electricity by 2030



**100%:** new vehicle sales to be electric by 2030



**60%:** tourism's contribution to GDP



**365:** number of beaches that can be found in Antigua



**93,880:** population in 2023 (source Worldometer)



**1:** Unesco World Heritage Site - Nelson's Dockyard in St. John's



**349:** number of historical sites recorded, 15 of which found in Barbuda



**Antigua Carnival in July and August,** one of the Caribbean's oldest



**Over 182:** number of bird species and 30 species of coral



**One of Caribbean's leading Citizenship by Investment programs**

# Antigua and Barbuda has something for everyone

Tourism in Antigua and Barbuda is enjoying a record year and with all the investment the government has put in, it's easy to see why



Light, white sand and an iridescent sea awaits visitors to the twin Caribbean islands

The Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment of Antigua and Barbuda, Charles "Max" Fernandez, is rightly proud of all his country has achieved.



**Charles "Max" Fernandez**  
Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment

Antigua and Barbuda relies on tourism for much of its wealth, which ensures that Fernandez has one of the most important roles in government. The number of arrivals to the country, the amount of money they spend, the method by which they get there — all of these metrics are key to the strength of the country's economy. In that respect, Fernandez can be delighted with 2024 so far, since air arrivals up to May were up by 12 percent and cruise arrivals were up by 35 percent compared to 2019 before the pandemic, while yachting arrivals have increased by 34 percent. "We are on our way to a very big year in terms of tourism," Fernandez boasted.

They won't have a shortage of places to stay. "We have several properties that have started to open. We just opened the Royalton Chic that replaced the old Halcyon property. We have the Half Moon Bay property that has been dormant since 1995 and we now are going to have the One and Only hotel brand operating there. We also have the

According to UN Tourism data, SIDS around the world received 36 million international tourist arrivals in 2023, representing 91 percent of their pre-pandemic levels and although that represents only 3 percent of all arrivals worldwide, it is a lifeline for many nations, including Antigua and Barbuda for whom tourism accounts for 60 percent of GDP and 46 percent of employment. For the conference, the country laid out the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS which the UN has officially adopted. The agenda included transitioning to sustainable and resilient tourism that places people and the planet at its core, localizing supply chains, de-risking investments and protecting biodiversity. The country is a co-sponsor of a legal challenge for more developed nations to compensate smaller ones for environmental damage. "We contribute maybe, 0.01 percent towards the pollution, or damaging of the ozone layer, yet we're on the front line," Fernandez emphasized.

Buoyed by the success of the conference, the country now wants more conference tourism, following the opening of the American University of Antigua's conference facility earlier in 2024. The rise of 'bleisure' travel means more travelers are staying for a few days before or after their conference combining business and leisure. The country introduced a digital nomad program in 2020 to allow foreign workers whose job can be undertaken from anywhere to stay for up to a year and work remotely. Fernandez stressed the favorable climate the Caribbean affords as one of the attractions, saying that people can "sit on a beach and work remotely, get a suntan, take a break, take a swim, come back, sit down and continue to work." He added "Antigua does not suffer from the major heat waves that major countries suffer from, because we have the trade winds coming through."

**"Our key asset is our people. We have the nicest, most welcoming citizens on the planet. That's number one. The other thing is that we have the lowest crime in the region."**

Charles "Max" Fernandez, Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment

Marriott that is going to be coming to Yepton Beach starting later this year," Fernandez highlighted. He is also promoting Antigua's cruise credentials, noting the second phase of the cruise port development will start in October 2024 — a \$35 million investment centered on expansion and modernization. For Barbuda Fernandez added "we have the [Barbuda Beach Club] that is just about completing phase one. We have the Nobu Restaurant already open, the only one in the Caribbean. We also have the Nobu Hotel that's coming to Barbuda. There's a real interest in investing in Antigua and Barbuda."

**A small island making a global impact**

This is one of the reasons the recently concluded UN Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference held in Antigua is so important.

**It's who you know**

Connectivity means everything for the country. The upgraded international airport in Barbuda is set to

open in October 2024 which Fernandez describes as a game changer, explaining that as well as inter-island travel, it will "allow for more people who might have visited Antigua, loved it and never had an opportunity to visit Barbuda and want to, because although Antigua and Barbuda are one, they're also different." The modification works have been enormous: the old airport's runway was 1,640 feet long, sufficient only for very light aircraft, whereas the new runway is 7,100 feet in length which will accommodate most commercial airliners, part of a \$14 million upgrade.

**"The second phase of the cruise port development that's going to start in October 2024 is a \$35 million investment, to allow for expansion and modernization for the port."**

Charles "Max" Fernandez, Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment

At the Routes Americas conference in Chicago in 2023 the country met with numerous stakeholders to explore new gateways for people to visit the islands and is pushing for routes from San Antonio, TX and Boston, MA as well as having more flights from Miami. The country is also seeing more regional flights to boost connectivity to other islands and wants to take advantage of this too. "We can now sell Antigua as a hub. We are amongst the best in terms of airports in the region," explained Fernandez, adding "we are ideally positioned, not just with our infrastructure, but also our geographical location to allow us to act as a hub to the Caribbean."

Antigua and Barbuda was also present at Routes Americas 2024 in Bogotá where American Airlines announced plans to inaugurate a daily service from Charlotte, NC to Antigua effective

December 5th, 2024 and vowed to sustain its twice-daily flights from Miami throughout both the summer and winter seasons. Delta also pledged to increase its frequency from Atlanta, GA and United is also planning flights from Newark, NJ. Antigua also wants "to open up connectivity with Latin and South America," Fernandez noted.

The minister also wants to grow the yachting sector. The island has become one of the premier destinations for yachts in the Eastern Caribbean, especially the popular Antigua Yacht Club Marina and Resort. The island is planting buoys marking out where reefs are and where yachts cannot travel however once in place yachting will be another key area of focus.

**Sustainable tourism at Antigua's heart**

Two islands so dependent on tourism might be tempted to cram in as many tourists as possible and ignore the environmental costs. Not so Antigua and Barbuda. It has taken numerous local steps to minimize damage as much as possible. It is rehabilitating its reefs by planting coral in incubators and reinstalling it in dead reefs to rejuvenate them; in Barbuda the country is, as Fernandez put it "dropping these huge artificial reefs, which get different seed plants growing in them, which in turn starts to attract fish."

That's great for tourism but also a natural defense against hurricanes. Healthy reefs can protect beach damage in hurricanes. As part of the property rental assessments, officers enquire what pesticides owners use, how they deal with wastewater and what renewable energy they may have on site. The country has gone all-in for reef protection including banning sunscreens that contain chemicals detrimental to reef health. "All these things we're bringing into the tourism product to ensure that we do everything we can to reduce that kind of footprint," Fernandez intimated.

Antigua and Barbuda is shaping up to be the premier Caribbean destination for business and leisure. It is waiting for you to come and enjoy it.



EMCS has built houses in the British Virgin Islands on Mosquito Island worth over \$20 million

## Dream homes in the Caribbean

EMCS transforms the grandest dreams into reality, crafting ultra-luxury homes in the Caribbean's most exclusive locales.

No request is too extravagant and bespoke fixtures and fittings are the norm. Specializing in construction, design and facilities management, EMCS has earned a stellar reputation for building some of the world's most opulent residences across Antigua and the British Virgin Islands (BVI). Catering to clients for whom money is no object and only the best will suffice, EMCS creates properties where the extraordinary becomes possible, including features like a glass-bottom hot tub suspended over a 200-foot cliff, according to Craig Noblett, its co-founder and managing director. "Nothing is too much," he said, adding that facilitating the ultimate dream is at the foundation of what the firm does. It leaves nothing to chance in its goal of being the best luxury house builder in the Caribbean. Extravagant great rooms, home cinemas, outdoor kitchens and poolside bars are all part and parcel of the properties.

The company started in the BVI and is most celebrated for its construction of houses on Mosquito Island, whose website suggests the easiest form of travel is private jet. It has more recently made its name in Antigua and Barbuda where it is extremely thankful for the positive and welcoming reception it has had. Noblett noted "I have been able, with zero hostility or pushback from Antigua, to come and bring our model here. We've been embraced with open arms." He went on to add, when comparing the population to other Caribbean peoples, that "Antiguans are more worldly and they see the world for what it is."

### Expansion by request of clients

EMCS expanded its operations to Antigua at the request of a client from the BVI who wanted to build



**Craig Noblett**  
Co-Founder and Managing Director  
EMCS

a home there. The company successfully established itself in Antigua, thanks in part to the warm reception from local authorities and residents. This success mirrors their achievements in the BVI, where, as Noblett highlighted, homeowners often push the limits of their home designs. "You can't say no; you have to make it happen," he noted, citing examples like a DJ booth emerging from the floor and hot tubs on the roof and by the pool. By continually pushing the boundaries of what's possible, EMCS has built a strong reputation and brand, facilitating its expansion into Antigua and Barbuda.

The real estate market on the twin islands is booming, fueled by a thriving tourism industry and a growing demand for luxury properties. EMCS is leading this trend, delivering high-end villas and commercial buildings. Nowadays, settling for second best is no longer acceptable. In the past, customers might have tolerated a slightly humid house or an erratic power supply, attributing it to the Caribbean climate. However, this is no longer the case. As Noblett emphasized, with many homes costing between \$20 million and \$40 million, sub-standard conditions are simply not an option.

### Balancing all priorities

Occasional teething problems arise when clients are overly specific about their demands, which can negatively impact the entire project. Noblett explains that some clients insist on importing marble from Italy, even though sourcing the same material from America would be more cost-effective due to better logistics. Despite these challenges, Noblett praises his procurement and logistics teams as some of the best in the Caribbean. They excel at sourcing materials from abroad, knowing exactly who to use, the best routes, shipping origins and delivery times. "When we're writing construction



It prides itself on nothing being too much for its clients and building the best properties imaginable

## EMCS designs and builds multi-million dollar properties in Antigua and beyond, turning visions into reality

schedules, we know what's going on and where it's coming from. The planning, procurement and logistics are the most important parts of the job. Construction is only 10 percent of the effort," he clarified.

In short, nothing and nowhere is off-limits when it comes to sourcing the best products and materials for their clients. However, sustainability remains a challenging goal. As Noblett explains, "eco-friendly" in the Caribbean is completely different from eco-friendly in Europe or America," due to the necessity of importing many materials, which makes the supply chains far from green. He added, "it is impossible to be eco-friendly with how you build a building in the Caribbean. The eco-friendly component only comes into effect once the property is built." The company is fully capable of installing solar panels and is even constructing a house with a water desalination plant, its own well and a wastewater treatment plant used for property irrigation. Owners can also plant vegetation and fruits such as avocado, orange, lemon or mango trees which thrive in the Caribbean climate, making use of the considerable sunshine and rainfall. This also helps the local ecosystem.

Construction is ultimately a service industry, as Noblett explained: "In construction, we're in the service business. It's about serving the client and the workers, providing them with the tools to do the job. It's a passion." EMCS takes pride in training Antiguan, equipping them with the necessary tools and skills to meet high standards. "Providing jobs in the local community is what we love to do and we ensure that everyone working on our projects continues to learn and grow," Noblett emphasized. He added, "There's so much amazing talent on every island, you just need to know where to look and how to nurture it." The company has an in-house training program where trainees can gain experience and certifications. "I'm so proud that I can turn around and say 90 percent of this is locally built, locally managed and locally finished," boasted Noblett.

Although the company is established in Antigua,

it is exploring expansion opportunities across the Caribbean, particularly in Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis. With a solid presence in Antigua for three years, Noblett is confident that they now have a strong enough foundation to expand to other islands without compromising service quality, either at home or abroad. Noblett emphasized that the reason for expansion is client requests, not speculative growth, similar to their initial move into the Antiguan market three years ago. "There is very little competition in the region with the type of business model that we have. There are only a select few companies

**"I'm so proud that I can turn around and say 90 percent of this is locally built, locally managed and locally finished."**

Craig Noblett, Co-Founder and Managing Director, EMCS

that can do this type of work. Being invited to another island to go and do the same thing is exciting; it's heartwarming that people can see the fruits of our hard work and they want us to come and do it for them," he explained.

### A model company rising higher

EMCS continues to build its reputation through innovative design and impeccable construction, creating some of the world's most desirable properties in stunning locations. The company's impact on the region is unique, timeless and luxurious.

Antigua is flourishing, offering a safe and rewarding destination for investment. As Noblett put it, "Antigua is open for business. They say bring your investment, bring tourism, but don't take advantage. I like that." It certainly is an admirable sentiment and encapsulates the mission statement of Antigua. Besides, if one of the island's most respected companies approves, it should be good enough for everyone.

## Buccaneer Beach Club is proud of its unique identity

It offers a variety of suites and apartments and allows guests to be themselves doing what they want

Buccaneer Beach Club is a different sort of hotel, but proud of what it has and what it offers. Its resident manager, Leonard Reynolds, explains how it can be your home away from home in Antigua.

The Buccaneer Beach Club can be found at Dickenson Bay, five minutes from Antigua's capital, St John's, on one of the most popular beaches on the island. This is not a hotel in the traditional sense though. It has no rooms as such; instead guests can choose in what sort of apartment they'd like to stay, with the choices being a garden or pool view suite, two-bedroom cottages with a view of the sea, or a studio apartment. The cottages feature full kitchens with facilities to cook evening meals, a microwave, fridge and anything needed to make the beach club your home in Antigua. The studio apartments, on the other hand, feature half kitchens with induction cook tops and microwave ovens as well as toaster ovens and a fridge. Or, as Reynolds highlighted, anything to give the guests flexibility: "unlike other vacations where you have to pretty much plan every single thing because you want to go out and be back in time to have lunch at a certain time at the hotel...here you have the liberty to be free, you just do as you wish."



**Leonard Reynolds**  
Resident Manager  
Buccaneer Beach Club

umbrellas set up and has installed a groin to prevent beach erosion, they have formed unspoken barriers that discourage persons not staying in the hotel to visit. "It's almost an automatic understanding," as Reynolds put it and expanded with "people just understand that this is Buccaneer and Buccaneer guests are set up there."

The hotel has no restaurant on site. Guests use the cooking facilities in their rooms and "there are so many restaurants that guests can walk to within the area," Reynolds pointed out. The hotel goes out of its way to make

self-catering more comfortable for its guests, providing basic staples in the kitchens ahead of time if requested in advance. "I believe people traveling to Antigua should consider Buccaneer as one of the first properties that they choose to stay at, simply because we are truly a home away from home," explained Reynolds, who added "settling in is a thing that you don't have to worry about because you'll be settled automatically. As soon as you get here, you'll be settled."

As part of its commitment to make its guests as comfortable, as welcome and as settled in as possible from the minute they arrive to their checkout, the hotel is investing in numerous upgrades, so much so that it closed for the first time for a month in September to do them. All the bedroom windows were changed from wooden shutters to double paneled glass windows to make the rooms even quieter and more peaceful, some of the air conditioning units were changed, so were some kitchen counters and showers to give the rooms a refresh and spruce up to make the ambiance as perfect as possible.

### Unapologetically itself

The hotel has a novel marketing strategy in that it doesn't try to cater to any specific tourist or persons coming from any one location, no matter how well connected that location might be. As Reynolds explained of its 16 garden/pool suites and two cottages, "we sell what we have, we advertise the property for the gem that it is, the ambiance that



Buccaneer Beach Club's apartments and cottages encourage guests to make themselves at home

we've created and the setting that we've created!" He added "our focus is never to compare or position ourselves...we just say who we are, what we are and this is what we're offering." Or, as he offered more succinctly, "the setting lends to the development of tourism on its own."

That's not to say that there aren't expansion or development plans in the pipeline. The hotel is mulling developing one of its outdoor spaces to install an outdoor kitchen. Should guests want to have private dinners, this could be arranged with a private chef. Guests could even book the grill for their own outdoor cooking. The other benefit of having some kind of food station is that guests who may not want to cook their own breakfast or walk to a restaurant and wait for food could instead pre-order something and breakfast can be enjoyed at leisure in the Caribbean weather. Reynolds also wants to revamp the reception and front desk area in order to "make the welcome a little more welcoming." He has his eye on a plot of land adjacent to the hotel which he reckons would accommodate a further 16 rooms and a restaurant. A restaurant would be a major change in mindset and comes with its own set of

challenges so it is only a thought currently, but 16 additional rooms would be "a huge dream," he said.

Ease of communication is vital for the modern world and a hotel without it will fall off the wishlist pretty quickly. The Buccaneer Beach Club is pulling no punches in its efforts to make connectivity completely seamless with a new internet system being installed that will be 400 percent faster than the existing setup. They're also working on getting a Starlink connection and a third system so that all parts of the property are connected at all times. "The modern traveler also wants to stay in touch with work. We have noticed since Covid that people get away from their country and still work," explained Reynolds.

The hotel is tailored for every individual. "When you come, you can decide what you want to do and how you want to do it, without having to be set to timelines." It genuinely cares about every guest and cares deeply about reviews left online. Leonard reads every one and often responds, especially if they're negative, to find out more with the goal of addressing it. But with such hospitality part of the fabric of the Buccaneer Beach Club, it's hard to go wrong.

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buccaneer beach club ANTIGUA

# A green and digital future is on the horizon

A series of major investments and overhauls see Antigua and Barbuda ready to face the future, whatever it may bring

Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Information, Communication Technologies, Utilities and Energy ensures Minister Melford Nicholas has a very broad portfolio. He explains what is keeping him busiest and the direction the country is headed in the future.



**Melford Nicholas**  
Minister of ICTs, Utilities and Energy

The two sectors taking up most of Nicholas' time are energy and transforming Antigua into a digital nation. He has been leading the transferring of government operations from paper to being digitally-based and has been making great headway. In fact, "we are at the culminating step now of bringing it all together in a single portal that will allow all of the services that the government can provide its citizens online," Nicholas explained. He added that "many of the institutions of government, if they are not yet fully digitalized, are in the process of being so." He will soon be hosting consultations with the Antiguan people to bring them on board with the program and educate them on what they will soon be able to do online.

In an increasingly digitized and connected world, governments and whole countries have to adapt or they won't survive. Nicholas neatly summarized it, saying "our information communication

technology portfolio is the rib cage that supports all of the other ministries because we provide them with the infrastructure."

The other area where countries have to adapt or face capital flight is clean energy and in this regard, Antigua is forging ahead. Taking advantage of the old maxim 'never let a good crisis go to waste,' the country has used the damage inflicted on Barbuda by Hurricane Irma to rebuild better and cleaner. Once it was determined the island would be rebuilt, the decision was quickly taken to do so under a different

model where "even today, the daily energy requirements of Barbuda are met purely on the basis of solar power. It's only in the evening when we lose the power of the sun that we have a combination of battery backup and diesel. So far, we have been able to eliminate 65 percent of the costs of running a fossil-fuel environment," boasted Nicholas.

With the expansive plans the government has to make Barbuda an ultra-luxurious tourist paradise and with infrastructure works including an international airport nearing completion, it wants the island to be a green paradise too. "We also want to add a component indicating to our audiences that it is a green island and that if you're conscientious about



The ministry has big plans to radically alter the digital and energy landscape of the country

preserving the natural environment, you would want to consider Barbuda on the basis that the energy consumption is coming from renewables rather than from fossil fuel-generated energy," he explained.

Nicholas wants more renewable power for Barbuda one day, maybe even offshore wind farms. With trade winds blowing across the islands, offshore wind farms may be expensive for now, but he is keeping his options open. "For future development and Barbuda, I would like to see a combination of solar, wind and batteries and totally eliminate the reliance on fossil fuels," he exclaimed. This will also help significantly reduce Antigua and Barbuda's fuel import bill which is vast: "30 percent of our GDP goes back out of the economy to purchase fossil fuels," he added.

### Cleaner and greener is the future

The main island of Antigua is moving in that direction too but has big plans for liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a transition fuel. As of August 2023, Antigua was operating its first LNG plant consisting of four storage tanks of over 35,000 cubic feet each with LNG supplied by Eagle, based in Louisiana. It is intended for two uses: the marine industry and otherwise powering the island as much as possible. As Nicholas explained, "there is a mandate for cruise ships to, in the first instance, slow down to decrease the carbon footprint. Secondly, any new ships are going to be using LNG-powered engines. Clearly, Antigua is already positioned to be an important refueling stop for these cruise ships." This hits at the crux of Antigua's plans: being a bunkering hub for the region. Already it is dredging its harbor to allow for LNG vessels to dock. Once this is complete, Nicholas sees further possibilities. "There are likely to be opportunities for many of the shipping companies to use Antigua as a transshipment point so they bring their bulk cargo here and then we can utilize smaller ships and move them across the subregion."

In public utilities, Antigua and Barbuda still has

some work to do, but it is making progress. Electricity is secure and stable, but investments are needed to modernize the water infrastructure. "The public utilities have to become commercially adept, commercially viable and commercially fleet-footed, to be able to continue to operate in the market and to do well," Nicholas noted.

He explained that Antigua and Barbuda is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world and its annual dry season is placing ever greater stress on water supplies. However, the country signed a build-own-operate-transfer 12 year deal with Florida-based Seven Seas Water Group in March 2024 which will build two new seawater reverse osmosis plants at a cost of \$80 million, \$23 million of which

**"Our information communication technology portfolio is the ribcage that supports all of the other ministries because we provide them with infrastructure."**

Melford Nicholas, Minister of ICTs, Utilities and Energy

is coming from Seven Seas. The result is expected to be 3 million gallons per day increased of water production. The first facility is expected to commence operations within seven months of the signing of the agreement.

Barbuda and water are the final pieces of the puzzle for the country's true arrival on the world stage. It has spent years preparing for the future and the future is nearly here. "I would like to invite anyone to come. Antigua is a place to do business but it's also a place to relax yet be engaged in activities too. Anything you want to do we can support," Nicholas said. A Caribbean climate with great government support and a rewarding investment climate makes a winning formula and Antigua is looking forward to it.

# Antigua is aiming to be clean and well connected

Major investments in renewable energy, a reliable water supply and connectivity are helping Antigua and Barbuda advance

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) manages electricity, water and telecoms across the twin islands. Its major investments are making major progress.

APUA was set up in 1973 and has been a major part of citizens' lives for 50 years. In telecoms, it operates the inet brand; its electricity responsibilities include generation, transmission and distribution, purchasing the majority of power from Antigua Power Company Ltd through a power purchase agreement and it manages the distribution infrastructure of potable water. It plays, as its general manager, John Bradshaw, put it, "a critical role in enhancing the social and economic well-being of Antigua and Barbuda's citizens."

Antigua and most other nations in the Caribbean are on the front line of climate change, being affected more quickly than most other nations. Antigua's groundwater supply is being reduced as less rainfall reaching aquifers and saltwater is intruding into drinking water supplies. Reverse osmosis generates 80-90 percent of the country's drinking water which is very energy intensive and hampering Antigua's efforts to improve its alloca-



**John Bradshaw**  
General Manager  
APUA

tion of renewable energy into its energy mix. Nevertheless, the country has made headway in renewable energy capacity. "We've installed 10.23 megawatts of renewable energy systems in Antigua, which account for about 10.8 percent of our total energy output," explained Bradshaw, before adding "we've installed solar systems on government buildings, which are primarily used during the day, making solar power an efficient solution for these facilities."

APUA has invested heavily in Barbuda. It has commissioned a hybrid electricity plant using solar for the base supply, complemented by batteries and a diesel generator as a last resort. Bradshaw intimated "our focus on green energy includes wind and solar projects, with an impressive investment of about EC\$50 million [\$18.5 million]". Phasing out fossil fuels remains a work in progress; the reverse osmosis plants use a lot of energy and there are other fossil fuel installations that need to reach the end of their natural life as they are baseload plants, but the progress is good and supply is reliable. Indeed, "we have sufficient electricity capacity and maintain about 55 percent more than our demand

in reserve. This positions us as leaders in electricity and power supply in the region," Bradshaw boasted.

In communications, the country is achieving roaring success. "We are nearing the completion of negotiations for a major subsea cable project. If successful, this project will position Antigua and Barbuda among the first in the Eastern Caribbean to have express subsea cable connections to Miami and Bogotá," highlighted Bradshaw. The project will cement Antigua and Barbuda's repu-

**"We've made significant progress in stabilizing and improving our electricity supply to support the island's needs for the next two decades."**

John Bradshaw, General Manager, APUA

tation as a communications hub for the region. "Internationally, our digital services, particularly inet, are highly regarded. Our brand stands strong," he added. Initiatives underway include providing broadband fiber service to all citizens across the islands and e-government services and school projects. Online services already allow

citizens to pay bills, request government services and apply for home and business changes.

### Advancing through technology

Greater bandwidth bestows other benefits too, including remote control of lighting and tracking usage of utilities as well as remote security monitoring which is vital for investors who have second homes or properties not permanently occupied across the islands. Bradshaw is not shying away from his ambitions: "I firmly believe Antigua and Barbuda will become the envy of other islands for our achievements in broadband and telecommunication service," he said.

Technology is becoming ever more important too. "Whenever there's an opportunity to adopt new technology, we embrace it with open arms," Bradshaw explained. His authority is positioning itself to make use of artificial intelligence (AI) when the time is right, but needs the right conditions in place. "For AI to be effective, functional and realistic, we need a robust fiber broadband infrastructure as the gateway," but he remains confident, stating "rest assured, all Antiguan will have access to the benefits of AI, as our infrastructure will be properly developed and ready for them to use." APUA is committed to delivering first-class service at all times and it's doing it well.

### Antigua and Barbuda's path to net-zero

**The country has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2040**

**100% renewable energy target for all government operations by 2030**

**85% renewable energy target in electricity generation by 2030**

**20 MW wind power generation target by 2030**

**100% electric vehicle target in new car sales by 2030**

**20% target increase in women-led businesses implementing renewable energy**

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