

MAURICE ILE DURABLE FUND

Maurice Ile Durable vision

Maurice Ile Durable was first announced by the Prime Minister as a long term vision aimed at promoting sustainable development. The project is spearheaded by Professor Joel de Rosnay , Special Adviser of the Prime Minister, who also serves as adviser at the Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie of La Villette, Paris.

Objectives

The main thrust of the project Mauritius Ile Durable, is to make Mauritius less dependent on fossil fuel, with a target of 65% autonomy by the year 2028 through increased utilization of renewable energy and a more efficient use of energy in general. According to Professor de Rosnay this objective can be achieved through the use of biomass, bio-ethanol, biogas - 35%, solar - 15%, wind - 6%, hydro - 3%, cogeneration - 3% and waves - 3%.

The project includes the setting up of an Eco Park and the organization of a World Ecological Forum in Mauritius in 2011.

Maurice Ile Durable Fund

In June 2008, the MID Fund was set up by regulations under the Finance and Audit Act, as a specialized fund with the following objectives -

“ To finance

- (a) schemes for the preservation of local natural resources with a view to achieving sustainable development and adapting to climate change;*
- (b) projects to explore and harness all potential for local sources of renewable energy and to reduce dependency on imported fossil fuels;*
- (c) the promotion of energy savings through MDE;*
- (d) programmes to reduce consumption of fossil fuels, achieve greater efficiency in the use of energy in enterprises, offices, homes, public sector, transportation sector and in hotels;*
- (e) schemes to encourage innovation by households as well as by business to produce their own energy requirements and for the sale of any surplus at a premium;*
- (f) the provision of -*

- (i) *outright grants of 10,000 rupees for every solar water heater purchased by 31 December 2009, through the solar water heater loan scheme operated by the Development Bank of Mauritius;*
 - (ii) *an initial grant of up to 20 million rupees for CEB to provide compact fluorescent lamps at half the cost price; and*
 - (iii) *a grant to the Bus Modernisation Programme to enable all bus operators to renew their fleet, at no extra cost, with new generation buses which are environmentally friendly with reduced emissions, more comfortable and with low floors to speed and facilitate boarding;*
- (g) *projects and programmes to support efforts to protect the environment through recycling of waste, to encourage more efficient use of energy and to increase reliance on renewable energy;*
 - (h) *programmes for research and analysis pertaining to the development of renewable source of energy and consumption trends and to ensure environmental sustainability;*
 - (i) *energy management programmes through networking with local and international partners;*
 - (j) *awareness campaigns on energy saving and the use of renewable energy sources; and*
 - (k) *such other projects incidental to or conducive to the attainment of any of the above objects. ”*

Maurice Ile Durable Fund Committee

The Fund is administered and managed by a Committee comprising -

- (a) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for the subject of public utilities, as Chairperson;
- (b) a Vice-Chairperson, appointed by the Minister, after consultation with the Minister responsible for the subject of public utilities;
- (c) a representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment;
- (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject

- of local government;
- (e) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of land transport;
 - (f) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of environment;
 - (g) the Accountant-General or his representative;
 - (h) a representative of any development partner providing funds; and
 - (i) three other persons, one of whom shall be from the Island of Rodrigues,.

Projects financed by Maurice Ile Durable Fund

.Projects being financed by the Fund are -

(i) **Solar Water Heater Project** -

A grant of Rs 10,000 is being provided for the purchase of solar water heaters by domestic users together with a soft loan of Rs 15,000 provided by the Development Bank of Mauritius.

As at 31 January 2009, 3075 persons have already benefited from the grant and an amount of Rs 35.75 m has been disbursed by MID Fund.

MID Fund has extended the scheme to group residents such as residential homes for the elderly, shelters for women and children in distress and orphanages. The criterion of five residents is applied for eligibility of the Rs 10,000 grant.

(ii) **Compact Fluorescent Lamps**

As at 05 February 2009, 500,000 lamps had been sold to customers at a subsidized rate of Rs 40 for three lamps. The use of CFL lamps is expected to reduce energy consumption and alleviate expenditure of households on electricity.

As from January 2009, CEB is selling CFL lamps at subsidized price in secondary schools and shopping malls.

(iii) **Street lighting**

The MID Fund is financing the **replacement of 15,468 street lighting in rural and urban roads** at the cost of Rs 15m. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Local Government. This would lead to monthly savings of Rs 1.4m on electricity charges.

(iv) **Lighting in Schools/ hospitals and public buildings**

MID Fund is financing a project to **replace all conventional lightings in public buildings, schools hospitals by economic compact fluorescent lighting systems** in order to ensure energy savings and efficiency.

(v) **Solar Water Heating in hospitals**

MID is financing the **installation of solar water heaters in public hospitals.** .

(vi) **Replacement of traffic lights**

There are about 191 traffic signal equipment in Mauritius with some 1569 traffic signal heads which use conventional lights – incandescent bulbs or halogen bulbs. The power ratings of these lights and the annual electrical consumption are relatively high.

The MID Fund is financing **the replacement of these traffic lights by LED signal lights at the cost of Rs 17m.** This would lead to an annual savings of Rs 4.5 m. LED lights have the advantage of low maintenance, longer design life, better visibility and high light intensity.

(vii) **Joint project by the University of Mauritius and the University of Campiegne**

MID Fund is financing a joint project by the **University of Mauritius and the University of Campiegne** for the development of a Maurice Ile Durable. A conference will be held in March 2009 with the participation of the University of Campiegne.

Maurice Ile Durable Week

A Maurice Ile Durable Week will be held in March in the context of the National Day Celebrations.

Renewable Energy projects

- A wind turbine will be installed at Grenade in Rodrigues

- A wind farm project is being implemented at Bigara and tenders for a feasibility study have already been invited
- Two hydro power projects are being implemented by the Central Electricity Board at La Nicoliere and Midlands Dam
- UNDP consultants are working on the grid code as from January 2009 with a view to enable small power producers to integrate the power generation system. An Energy Policy has been formulated and the investment in renewable energy projects is being encouraged. Initiatives from Industry, business and the tourism sectors to use renewable energy sources and ensure energy efficiency are equally being promoted.