

MEMBER SINCE 2017

# PUERTO RICO



**CLIMATE SUCCESS STORY** Puerto Rico's AGROSolar Grant has provided \$10 million in funding and technical assistance, including to Nestor Reyes Farm.



## Puerto Rico's AGROSolar programs supports farmers and energy diversification

In 2017, prior to Hurricane Maria, agriculture in Puerto Rico was growing in importance and production was increasing in a place where around 85 percent of food is imported. Because island states and territories face additional vulnerabilities to climate change, adopting agricultural practices and management strategies, such as diversification of products and energy sources, allows farmers to offset its impacts.

The Government of Puerto Rico, through the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce's Energy Policy Program (EPP), developed the AGROSolar Grant, which provided \$10 million in grant funding and technical assistance. AGROSolar provided photovoltaic and storage systems to 140 small agriculture businesses and the EPP provided technical support and management for the qualification of sites, systems construction, and final inspections. In addition to achieving energy savings, 90 of the installed systems included integration of energy storage to support critical loads during power outages.

Most farms in Puerto Rico are small family farms ideal for specialty crops like organic vegetables, and the island offers perfect growing conditions for coffee and other highly profitable crops. Small farms can grow to meet the needs of the local market, including restaurants. For example, Nestor Reyes Farm & Associates (Nestor Reyes Farm), located in Río Grande, Puerto Rico, provides a constant supply of eggs to meet locals' needs.

Since its inception, AGROSolar has impacted 140 small agribusinesses, saved \$980,000 in electricity bills, produced 3,391,800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of solar electricity, and—significantly—has avoided 2,643 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. By participating in AGROSolar, Nestor Reyes Farm has avoided the equivalent of 35.8 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, equivalent to the carbon sequestered by more than 500 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

Puerto Rican farmers want to fight climate change, and AGROSolar empowers them to support their livelihoods with clean energy.





## CLIMATE ACTION-AT-A-GLANCE

The following list includes both **statutory** and **executive** policies and actions that have been adopted or are in the process of being adopted.



### ECONOMY-WIDE GHG TARGETS & CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

- Lead by Example programs & goals
- Economy-wide GHG goal



### RESILIENCE

- Resilience offices or interagency bodies



### ELECTRICITY

- 100% clean electricity goal
- Renewable portfolio standards



### NATURAL & WORKING LANDS

- NWL conservation or sequestration goal



### BUILDINGS/EFFICIENCY

- Energy efficiency target