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Danang, EU begin pilot solar project

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DANANG, in co-operation with the European Union (EU), has launched a pilot project to develop solar energy in the Vietnamese city.

The Danang Energy Conservation and Technology Consultant Center (DECC), under the city's Department of Science and Technology, will design and install solar energy systems at Danang General Hospital, the Oncology Hospital, two schools and six households on a pilot basis and build a database of solar power capacity in the city as well as a policy framework for clean energy development.

The project, funded by the EU to the tune of US\$447,000, aims to increase accessibility to clean energy and raise awareness among businesses and households on solar power, energy saving and environmental protection.

It aims to be a good example for localities in Vietnam to promote mass use of renewable energy technology at household and public buildings.

Danang has great renewable energy potential, with a 90km coastline, 2,000 hours of sunlight per year and average wind speed of 3m per second.

The city also plans to build a 4.4MW solar farm on 6.7ha of the closed Khanh Son Landfill in Lien Chieu District at a cost of \$5 million to supply 7.7 million kWh (kilowatt per hour) per year to the city's power grid, while reducing 5,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year.

According to the city's Industry and Trade Department, about 30 per cent of the city's population use solar power for water heaters, while about 20 five-star hotels and resorts are using a solar power water heating system.

Danang has applied nano-lighting technology and saving solutions to reduce 30 per cent of power consumption at public sites since 2009.

Solar power systems and energy-saving Light-emitting Diodes (LED) were installed in deep-sea fishing vessels as a pilot project in 2013.

Meanwhile, Vietnam's solar power plants are facing a crisis in consumption of their electricity because there has not been synchronous development of power transmission infrastructure or a suitable operation mechanism.

The National Load Dispatch Center under the Electricity of Vietnam (EVN) has just announced it is considering reducing the volume of electricity transmitted from all solar plants into the national grid to deal with overloaded transmission lines.