

Amatitlan geothermal project in Guatemala – harnessing the power of renewable energy through innovative technology

Guatemala faces a growing demand for energy which has largely been met through fossil fuel based sources, despite the considerable geothermal resources at its disposal. The Amatitlan geothermal project in Guatemala uses state-of-the-art geothermal power plant technology to harness the power of renewable energy. Amatitlan was able to benefit from the use of this innovative technology as a result of the carbon financing which the project was able to obtain via the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

J.P. Morgan's EcoSecurities worked with Amatitlan to register the project with the CDM Executive Board and issue Certified Emission Reductions in order to secure the necessary carbon financing. Amatitlan utilises three turbines to generate around 162,000 megawatt hours of power which is dispatched to the Guatemalan electricity grid. Not only does the project help to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emission by around 82,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, the project also contributes to the country's sustainable development by providing local employment and a stable source of power. The project also resulted in a significant area of the surrounding hillside being reforested.

