

SUCCESS STORY

LÍDIA DOS SANTOS COMMUNITY CENTER

Morro dos Macacos, Vila Isabel, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

**INSTALLATION**

Project	Lídia dos Santos Community Center
Location	Morro dos Macacos, Vila Isabel, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Size	4.6 kW
Program	Juventude Solar
Installer	Greenpeace Brasil
Partner	Solar Energy do Brasil
Module Type	YGE 60 Cell Series
Connected	June 2013

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Rated System Power	4.6 kWp
Number of Modules	20
Monthly Energy Yield	600 kWh
Number of People Served	10,000+
CO ₂ -savings p.a. approx.	5 metric tons

CLEAN ENERGY DRIVES POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE IN RIO DE JANEIRO FAVELA

Located in Rio de Janeiro's Morro dos Macacos district, Lídia dos Santos Community Center's 4.6 kW solar energy system is one of the first solar projects to be installed in a favela (a term for Brazilian neighborhoods marked by poverty and unreliable infrastructure). Industry pioneer and turnkey PV solution provider Solar Energy do Brasil partnered with Greenpeace Brasil to develop the project, which local youths installed after completing an intensive six-week solar PV training course. The youth of Morro dos Macacos often lack access to professional development opportunities, and this training helped to prepare them for employment in Brazil's burgeoning solar energy industry. This landmark project is also one of the first to take advantage of Brazil's new utility regulations, which allow distributed solar "microgeneration" through small residential and commercial systems connected to the utility grid. Solar Energy do Brasil ensured the Community Center met these new regulations, which are helping Brazil's solar industry expand across the nation - in the favelas and beyond. With over 60% of its monthly electricity needs now provided by Yingli Solar panels, Lídia dos Santos Community Center is empowered to make an even greater impact in the Morro dos Macacos community.

The Lídia dos Santos Community Center now meets over 60% of its electricity needs with clean solar energy

“If we want to promote change, we must educate our youth. Only they can carry the message of sustainability into the future, and only they have the power to transform our world into a more sustainable place.”

– Vânia Stolze,
Project Coordinator of Greenpeace Brasil's Solar Juventude Program



Left: As demonstrated by the many power lines in this image, electric service in the Morro dos Macacos neighborhood is unreliable. Going solar ensures a stable power source for Lídia dos Santos Community Center while also reducing its electricity costs.

Right: Students and volunteers celebrate the completion of Lídia dos Santos Community Center's 4.6 kW solar energy system. Photo courtesy Greenpeace/Otávio Almeida/Luzia©.

DETAILS ABOUT THE SYSTEM

- The solar energy system was installed over the course of two days by students who completed a six-week, ten-session training course sponsored by Greenpeace Brasil, and supported by Solar Energy do Brasil (www.solarenergy.com.br).
- Thirteen young residents of the Morro dos Macacos neighborhood participated in the solar installation and training course.
- The project's June 2013 inauguration ceremony included solar-powered music, a video history of the project produced by the students, and a special appearance from Brazilian actress Cassia Kiss.
- The Lídia dos Santos Community Center delivers critical support to more than 10,000 residents of the Morro dos Macacos community through health care, education, and childcare services.