

## Eu solar grant for ghana

The European Union (EU) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in collaboration with government, have officially launched the EU-Ghana Pact for Skills: Integrated Action on Green Jobs and Skills project.

As a flagship initiative under the broader EU-Ghana Skills Pact Programme, the project aims to bridge the skills gap and demands of the private sector while fostering policies that support green job creation and sustainable economic growth.

With a total budget of EUR3.7million, the initiative aligns with the country's National Green Jobs Strategy (2021-2025), contributing to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), decent work (SDG 8) and climate action (SDG 13).

Country Director for Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia at the ILO, Dr. Vanessa Phala, in her remark, underscores the importance of empowering the country's workforce for a sustainable and inclusive future.

Acknowledging Ghana's economic growth over the past two decades, Dr. Phala highlights persistent challenges such as youth unemployment and job insecurity for women, which demand immediate attention and sustainable employment opportunities in emerging green and digital sectors.

Dr. Phala stressed the importance of policy coherence in aligning skills development with environmental sustainability, institutional capacity-building and expanding competency-based training programmes.

She, therefore, urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure the project's success, leaving a legacy that supports climate resilience, decent work, and social equity for future generations.

Mr. Djurfeldt highlighted the success of free TVET education, which has led to more enrolments among Ghanaian youth, adding that the EU-Ghana Pact for Skills aims to leverage this momentum by enhancing employment opportunities in future-oriented sectors and supporting Ghana's transition to a smart, green and digitally-driven economy.

The Chief Director of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Kizito Ballan, in a keynote address on behalf of the sector minister, lauded the collaboration between Ghana, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the European Union (EU), which underscores a shared vision of sustainable economic growth.

However, he acknowledged that the transition to a green economy has occasionally posed challenges for the labour market, noting the ministry's proactive approach since 2017 to ensure a just transition, maximising positive impacts while addressing the adverse effects of climate action.

The project aims to strengthen institutional capacity, address skill mismatches and promote green jobs aligned with Ghana's Green Jobs Strategy and educational reforms. Through targeted activities such as national dialogues, public-private partnerships and capacity building for trainers, the project seeks to create scalable, demand-driven solutions.

There are a few Commissioners that will be important for the solar sector in particular. The first is Commissioner-designate for Energy and Housing, Dan Jørgensen. During his hearing, Mr. Jørgensen solidified his position that renewables are the clear way forward for a climate responsible and competitive Europe, which offers our citizens affordable energy prices.

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Web: <https://www.somethingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

