

Application: SOURCE for Disaster Relief

Site Name: Utuado Estación de Bombaros

Location: Utuado, Puerto Rico

Climate-Type: Tropical Rainforest

Array Size: 5 Hydropanels

Developer/Distributor/Organization: Collaborative relief effort between Zero Mass Water, Empowered by Light, GivePower, and SunRun Solar

Project Overview

SOURCE Hydropanels can be deployed rapidly in response to natural disasters to provide safe and reliable drinking water to areas in need. On September 20th, 2017, Hurricane Maria landed in Puerto Rico bringing with it reported wind gusts between 175km/h and 190km/h, and rainfall as high as 962.7mm in some locations. The storm left many areas flooded and completely devastated the island's power grid leaving the entire country without electricity. After the hurricane, 50% of the island was without access to potable water.

In the wake of the disaster, Puerto Rican Fire Chiefs gathered in the San Juan Fire Hall and identified Utuado as an area that had been highly impacted by the storm and was receiving very little assistance. Because Utuado is located in the mountainous central region of Puerto Rico, it was significantly more challenging to transport and distribute the needed aid than it in other regions of the island. Zero Mass Water, in collaboration with Empowered by Light, GivePower, and SunRun Solar, deployed and installed two arrays of SOURCE Hydropanels at the Utuado Estación de Bomberos (Firehouse) creating clean, renewable access to drinking water.



SOURCE Usage and Satisfaction

“After the military goes away and after the help goes away, the only potable water we’ll have is gonna be this [SOURCE].”

- *Junior Huertas, Fireman at Utuado de Bomberos*