Guyana, home to a major offshore oil and gas development, is considering using natural gas to expand its electrical grid. The South American nation claims its plan would expand service to residents with the creation of new infrastructure to upgrade its ailing electrical grid.

A new report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) finds the $2 billion plan would result in a massive overbuilding of the country’s electric grid. The plan would provide more power than residents could possibly use while creating a significant debt burden for their utility.

The IEEFA report suggests an alternative. A substantial investment in solar energy—less than $2 billion—could help Guyana meet its climate commitments; allow the country to keep more of its share of profits from the offshore project; boost the local economy by creating solar installation and maintenance jobs; and ensure that its entire population has access to a clean, reliable source of electricity by 2040.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) examines issues related to energy markets, trends, and policies. The Institute’s mission is to accelerate the transition to a diverse, sustainable and profitable energy economy.