CUBA 2.0 · NEWSLETTER 09

Energy, AI & Communications.

Lights on. People connected.

A posted household rate of $0.006 a kilowatt-hour means little when the grid is down 11.6 hours a day. Mobile data at $2.50 a gigabyte is the highest price in our comparison, and only 70.5 percent of Cubans use the internet. This issue sets out how CUBA 2.0 would rebuild electric supply, put a fast and open network in every province, and put artificial intelligence to work for the people who use it — under clear rules.



Power you can count on
Electricity 24 hours a day.

SMR, gas and solar
Baseline, efficiency, redundancy.

Internet for everyone
Fast, affordable and open.

AI that works for people
A tool for Cubans, with clear rules.

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ENERGY · AI · COMMUNICATIONS

A Cuba where the power stays on.

This issue takes up three parts of the CUBA 2.0 program that determine how a household, a hospital, a school or a business gets through the day: electricity, communications and artificial intelligence.

They are not separate files. A clinic's tools are idle when the grid is down 11.6 hours a day. A family call is hard to hold when data costs $2.50 a gigabyte and the connection fails. What follows is the architecture for each, and the case for building them as one system.



01 · ENERGY

Power you can count on.

Cuba's official residential tariff is $0.006 per kilowatt-hour (0.72 CUP/kWh), the lowest figure in the comparison — well below the $0.112 paid in the Dominican Republic and the $0.203 average in the United States. The number on the tariff sheet is not the service in the house. From 6 October to 3 November 2026, the country averaged 11.6 hours a day without power. Families still plan the day around blackouts. Hospitals, schools and businesses cannot count on a full day's current.

CUBA 2.0 would end that bargain of a low official price and an unreliable supply. The aim is the cheapest, most reliable and most abundant electricity possible, 24 hours a day, delivered through three layers on a modernized grid: small modular reactors (SMRs) for baseline capacity, high-efficiency gas turbines, and redundant solar with batteries. Until those layers actually deliver the kilowatt-hours, a rate of $0.006 is only a figure on paper.

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ENERGY · THE ARCHITECTURE

Three layers, one reliable supply.



- **SMR baseline capacity:** small modular reactors;
- **high-efficiency gas turbines;**
- **redundant solar with batteries** across the island.

Each layer covers a weakness in the others. Reactors hold a steady baseline; turbines add efficient capacity as demand rises; solar and batteries, installed across the island, keep local supply available if a plant or a transmission line fails. The modernized grid is what makes the three work as one system rather than three isolated bets.

Housing is part of the same design. CUBA 2.0 will give priority to developments that generate their own power, following the model set out in Newsletter 08: homes built to produce the electricity they use. That does not replace the three-layer system. It shortens the distance between supply and the family that depends on it, and it keeps a household running when a feeder line goes down.

Energy compared

COUNTRY	USD / kWh	OUTAGES
Cuba	$0.006	11.6 h/day
Dominican Republic	$0.112	n/a
Guatemala	$0.329	n/a
Costa Rica	$0.190	n/a
Colombia	$0.250	n/a
Jamaica	$0.296	n/a
Panama	$0.175	n/a
Mexico	$0.113	n/a
Puerto Rico	$0.258	n/a
United States	$0.203	n/a

Sources. Household electricity prices, GlobalPetrolPrices (March 2026), official residential tariffs including taxes and fees, except Puerto Rico, U.S. EIA Electric Power Monthly Table 8.4, 2026 year-to-date average through August (released 23 Oct 2026). Cuba outages, 11.6 hours/day national average without power, 6 Oct–3 Nov 2026, Cuba Clara, compiled from official UNE daily reports. Comparable current SAIDI or daily outage hours were not found for the other countries; marked n/a. Cuba's $0.006/kWh is the official household rate as converted by GlobalPetrolPrices (0.72 CUP/kWh).

The table states the trade-off clearly. Peer residential prices range from $0.112 in the Dominican Republic to $0.329 in Guatemala. Cuba's official $0.006 sits far below all of them, while 11.6 hours a day without power has no current counterpart in the same set. The gap to close is reliability, not a still-lower tariff.

> The architecture is only as good as the current it delivers: **the cheapest, most reliable and most abundant supply, 24 hours a day.**

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02 · COMMUNICATIONS

Internet for everyone.

Internet that is fast, affordable and open should be ordinary in every province — at home, at school, at the clinic and in the park. It is not. Mobile data in Cuba costs $2.50 per gigabyte, the highest rate in the comparison; among the other countries the range is $0.28 to $1.20. Paying the top price for a connection that keeps dropping is a bad bargain for any household.

Close to family

For Cubans on the island and those living abroad, a stable video call is often how parents, children and grandparents stay in daily contact. That is difficult at $2.50 a gigabyte, on a line that fails mid-conversation. Bringing the price and the reliability into line with peer markets is not a convenience. It is the condition for family contact, and for work and study that now assume a connection will simply be there.

COMMUNICATIONS · CONNECTED PLACES

At home, at school, at the clinic and in the park.



An open network in every province has a concrete purpose:

- **a student** can take a course online;
- **a self-employed worker** can sell to the world;
- **a family** can video-call a relative abroad;
- **no one** pays a fortune for a connection that keeps dropping.

Communications compared

COUNTRY	USD / GB	BROADBAND / MO	MOBILE Mbps	INTERNET %
Cuba	$2.50	n/a	n/a	70.5%
Dominican Republic	$0.51	$28.61	124.76	91.0%
Guatemala	$0.75	$41.73	65.15	60.2%
Costa Rica	$0.80	$53.85	71.30	87.2%
Colombia	$0.28	$21.84	47.55	79.3%
Jamaica	$0.32	$48.10	n/a	90.1%
Panama	$0.68	$31.00	39.58	72.8%
Mexico	$0.75	$37.74	47.74	83.1%
Puerto Rico	$1.20	$75.00	n/a	87.3%
United States	$0.60	$80.00	190.59	94.7%

Sources. Mobile data, Broadband Genie Global Mobile Data Price League 2026 (sampled 6–10 July 2026), average USD per GB. Fixed broadband, Broadband Genie Global Broadband Price League 2026 (sampled 27 Jan–10 Feb 2026), average monthly USD; Cuba was excluded from that study, n/a. Mobile download, Ookla Speedtest Global Index median, September 2026; Cuba, Jamaica and Puerto Rico, n/a (not reported). Internet users, World Bank / ITU, individuals using the Internet (% of population), 2024, except Puerto Rico, 2022.

Cuba's $2.50 per gigabyte stands alone at the top of the table. The next highest figure is Puerto Rico at $1.20; Colombia is $0.28. Internet use is 70.5 percent of the population — above Guatemala (60.2 percent), well short of the Dominican Republic (91.0 percent) and the United States (94.7 percent). The sources used here publish no Cuban figure for fixed broadband or for mobile download speed. Closing that gap means a connection that is fast, affordable and open in the places people already are, not a higher price for the same fragile service.

> The network CUBA 2.0 is building has a single test: **fast, affordable and open, in every province.**

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03 · ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI that works for people.



Artificial intelligence belongs in this program only as a tool for the Cubans who will use it, and only once the grid and the network actually work. The uses below depend on that foundation, and on rules stated in advance that protect privacy and freedom of expression.

- **to support doctors and teachers;**
- **to make public paperwork faster and simpler;**
- **to open new jobs and businesses;**
- **with clear rules** that protect privacy and freedom of expression.

Those uses are not independent of the rest of this issue. A tool for a doctor or a classroom is idle through 11.6 hours of blackout. A service that has to travel over $2.50-a-gigabyte data will not reach the households the program is written for. New jobs, faster paperwork and better public services appear only when the power stays on and the connection holds. The rules are the other half of the bargain: capability, with limits the public can see.

> AI can extend what a clinic, a school or a small business can do. **It should serve the people who use it.**

ENERGY · AI · COMMUNICATIONS

It all goes together.

The last question is who builds and maintains these systems. CUBA 2.0 would train young Cubans to design and operate them — the plants, the networks, the software — not merely to use what arrives from abroad. That is the difference between a market for imported equipment and an economy that can staff its own energy, communications and public services.

> Reliable electricity is the base. An affordable, open network carries the work and the family traffic. Artificial intelligence extends what people can do with both. **One program, so every Cuban, on the island and abroad, can work, learn and stay close to family.**

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