

Energy Sector Consultations to be held in the Caribbean as part of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Program (CSEP)

Since 2008 the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the OAS is executing the EU funded initiative "Caribbean Renewable Energy Program (CSEP)", in partnership with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC), and the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP). CSEP seeks to accelerate the transition towards cleaner, more sustainable energy use in seven countries, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The specific objective is to address market conditions for the development and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and systems by mitigating the barriers to their use.

As part of the CSEP activities scheduled for 2009, the OAS worked on three major consultations in July to engage key stakeholders in reforming/reshaping/ the energy sector throughout the Caribbean. Participants include government officials, non-governmental organizations, academia, international organizations and the private sector.

St. Kitts and Nevis. From June 29 to July 3rd OAS representatives attended the 1st Eastern Caribbean Geothermal Conference in Nevis, and met with senior Government officials to initiate conversations geared towards drafting a National Energy Policy which may include a Sustainable Energy Plan in support of action implementation.

Grenada. On July 28th the OAS is hosting a multi-sector energy stakeholder consultation to discuss the building blocks of a National Energy Policy and a Sustainable Energy Plan. The consultation will also engage stakeholders in a debate around priorities and challenges to advance the development of the energy sector.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines. On July 31st the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines will present the Cabinet-approved National Energy Policy (NEP) at a multi-sector consultation it is co-hosting with the OAS. The main objective of the consultation is to identify and explore potential coordination for an integrated and effective implementation of the NEP.