



# Energy and Climate Change Mitigation

Department of Sustainable Development

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## OAS/DSD HOLDS TRAINING SESSION FOR CREDIT UNION LENDING OFFICERS IN ST. GEORGE'S

The session was aimed at building the capacity of credit unions to analyze, understand, and make credit recommendations regarding lending operations for solar hot water systems

St. George's — The OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) held a training session on methods for analyzing and constructing loans for the purchase of solar hot water systems. The event brought together 15 lending officers from the Grenada Public Service Co-operative Credit Union (PSCCU)—one of Grenada's largest credit unions.

The training exercise introduced lending officers to the technical and economic aspects of solar hot water sys-

tems. A finance module on lending methods was also presented. The loan officers were presented with a case study that analyzed the financial viability of solar hot water systems and compared it to the expenses associated with electric hot water systems used in low to middle income households in Grenada. The training session made lending officers more comfortable with these technologies and more confident in their abilities to assess related financing opportunities.



*A solar hot water on a rooftop in St. George's. Systems such as this are a common feature of Grenada's landscape.*

## REEEP PROJECT PROVIDES INPUT TO NEW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC LEGISLATION IN BRAZIL

The project implemented by RENOVE has the potential to boost the solar PV industry in Brazil

Brasilia — On October 21, the Congress' Alternative Energy Sources Commission convened a hearing at which it approved a reform to Brazil's current renewable energy legislation. The reform enables the creation of a special fund to finance research and development in wind and solar energy, and to promote its deployment. The Brasilia-based NGO RENOVE (Rede Nacional de Organizações da Sociedade Civil para as Energias Renováveis) contributed to this achievement with funding from REEEP.

In 2007, REEEP funded a solar photovoltaic roof top program aimed at advancing a legal framework for the deployment of solar energy in Brazil. The project implemented by RENOVE



*Roberto Devienne (Left), Executive Secretary of RENOVE, and Paulo Teixeira Congressman for the State of Sao Paulo.*

involved extensive consultations with public and private sector energy stakeholders. "The project supported by REEEP represents a substantial contribution to the prospective solar photovoltaic roof top program", said Roberto Devienne, Ex-

ecutive Secretary of RENOVE. "Now that it has been approved, the newly drafted legislation submitted to the House of Representative's Alternative Energy Sources Commission brings a renewed sense of hope for the Brazilian photovoltaic market", said Devienne. The law is to be reviewed by the Senate for approval and published in the national Gazette in its final version. "This represents an enormous opportunity for Brazil to advance the solar energy industry and create new jobs locally", said Devienne. RENOVE worked closely with Congressman Paulo Teixeira of the state of Sao Paulo to develop this REEEP-supported initiative.

24TH EUROPEAN PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION CONVENED IN HAMBURG

The DSD introduced the concept of Renewable Energy Premium Tariff as a mechanism to foster off-grid rural electrification



Hamburg — International manufacturers, suppliers and service providers of photovoltaic equipment from around the world participated as exhibitors in the 24th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition convened on September 20-25, 2009. The five-day event attracted almost 45,000 visitors from 102 countries, and offered an opportunity for dialogue among industry actors, allowing them to share their experiences and best practices in the field of solar PV. The conference combined the scientific and technological

aspects of solar energy from the point of view of industries, utilities, policy-makers and users.

**Nourishing Off-grid Hybrid PV/Diesel Systems With a Renewable Energy Premium Tariff**

At the conference, an abstract submitted by the DSD was selected among more than 1500 submissions to be presented at a session on off-grid applications and rural electrification. The abstract, presented by the DSD in collaboration with Utrecht University, the Joint Research Centre of the EU Commission and TramaTecnomabiental, advances a financing mechanism based on the premise that off-grid and rural electrification challenges may be addressed through a Renewable Energy Premium Tariff (RPT) for off-grid hybrid photovoltaic/diesel systems.

The RPT is an adaptation of the

Feed-in Tariff especially designed to be implemented in developing countries. It fosters the deployment of renewable energy technologies by providing payments for electricity generated with renewable sources. Initial capital investments of renewable energy projects are not financed by the RPT, as would be the case in a classic Feed-in Tariff scheme. The RPT also helps ensure high levels of performance since payments are based on electricity generated.

The RPT was designed to provide a cost-effective mechanism for the introduction of renewable energy technologies in remote villages, provide sustainable and affordable electricity to local users, make renewable energy projects more viable to policy-makers, decrease financial risk, and attract private sector investment.

OAS/DSD PRESENTS PRELIMINARY OUTCOMES OF BIOFUELS STUDY IN SANTO DOMINGO

The project advances the use of biofuels in the Dominican Republic in support of the country's newly enacted energy legislation

Santo Domingo — At a meeting convened in August 2009, the Department of Sustainable Development presented the preliminary outcomes of the project *Technical Assistance for Biofuels Market Development in the Dominican Republic*. The main objectives of this project are to



A street in Sto. Domingo's Colonial District.

advance biofuels for transportation in the Dominican Republic in support of the 2007 Renewable Energy Act (Law 57-07), and to increase the baseline knowledge on ethanol mix, transportation logistics, storage, and distribution in order to promote biofuels production and consumption nationally. The biofuels study was prepared in the context of the United States-Brazil Biofuels Bilateral Agreement. Both countries provided technical and political assistance to the Dominican Government for the implementation of this project. On the day prior to the presentation of the preliminary outcomes of the biofuels project, the Department of Sustainable Development held an introductory training session on the use of the BioEnergy Evaluation Tool (BEET), and the uses of ethanol and its impacts.

REEEP TO HOLD PROGRAM BOARD MEETING IN VIENNA

The REEEP Program Board provides strategic guidance on the REEEP project portfolio

On November 11, 2009, the REEEP Program Board will meet in Vienna, Austria, to review the Partnership's operational rules. The discussions are geared at ensuring that the REEEP program meets the Partnership's objectives.



regulation—the core themes of the REEEP program. The REEEP Program Board will review the inputs of these regional meetings as a basis to provide advise to the REEEP Governing Board on future program actions. It will also issue recommendations to the REEEP Finance Committee regarding the final selection and approval of projects to be funded by the Partnership.

renewable energy & energy efficiency partnership

**Latin America and the Caribbean Represented at the REEEP Program Board**

On October 2, 2009 the Department of Sustainable Development held the Fourth Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) in Brasilia, Brazil.

At the event, Fábio Rosa was elected as the regional representative to represent the region for two years in the REEEP Program Board. Mr. Rosa is the Executive Director of the Instituto para o Desenvolvimento de Energias Alternativas e da Auto Sustentabilidade (IDEAAS).

For more information about our activities or the events announced in this newsletter, visit our website at:

[www.sepa-americas.net](http://www.sepa-americas.net)

This publication was prepared by the Division of Energy and Climate Change Mitigation of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States

Every year, the seven REEEP Regional Secretariats scattered throughout the globe organize preparatory meetings in which local stakeholders provide feedback on regional priorities in business & finance and policy &