



Organization of  
American States

## ***Regional Workshop: Sustainable Energy Project Development: Experience, Strategies and Implementation***

Within the framework of the

### ***Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative (SECBI)***

**Tuesday, August 19, 2014**

Bay Gardens Inn

Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia

### ***Background***

Energy is critical to nearly every aspect of economic development. This is true for all countries, but is particularly critical in the Caribbean, where most energy resources are imported and the high cost of modern energy services impacts all aspects of development.

As such, the development and use of domestic natural resources for electricity and/or transportation services, combined with energy efficiency measures is essential to facilitate a transition to a more sustainable energy future for the region. Renewable energy alternatives are a key component of this transformation. However, the costs of incorporating renewable and energy efficiency services are a barrier that negatively impacts their uptake.

In this pursuit, the Organization of American States through its Department for Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD) over the past decade has made considerable impacts in the Caribbean region toward improving market conditions for the development and use of sustainable energy alternatives (including renewable energy, energy efficiency and interconnected systems).

At the macro-policy level the OAS/DSD has worked to establish energy development pathways to articulate each nation's intentions to incorporate sustainable energy solutions into its overall energy matrix through the formulation of National Energy Policies and/or Sustainable Energy Plans. Most recently, the countries of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (NEP 2009 and SEP 2010), Saint Lucia (NEP 2010), Grenada (NEP 2011), Antigua and Barbuda (NEP 2011), Saint Kitts and Nevis (2012), and Jamaica (2009) have adopted such policies with the involvement of the OAS/DSD and regional partners.

As national strategies are put in place, subsequent actions have been implemented to assist with critical issues related to the promotion, selection, and management of sustainable energy programs and projects. This has included the establishment and strengthening of Energy Desk Offices within Ministries responsible for energy and climate change and the provision of technical training (via study tours,

workshops, seminars and forums) to energy sector stakeholders (e.g. utility managers and government personnel related to renewable energy and energy efficiency applications).

Despite these advances, challenges to renewable energy project development remain. In particular, regional actors face challenges relating to:

- Developing a working knowledge of innovative technology solutions through first-hand experience;
- Identifying commercial and bankable project opportunities;
- Negotiating power purchase agreements and contracts;
- Reviewing and evaluating project plans, engineering and designs; and
- Identifying and securing project financing.

As a result of the implementation of the ECPA Caribbean (completed in 2012) Initiative and the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) (completed in 2013); the OAS/DSD has been working closely with senior energy officials, utilities and project developers throughout the Caribbean. During the course of these efforts, many of the representatives have requested support from the OAS/DSD to provide technical assistance and to offer awareness/educational programs to enable the successful development of sustainable energy projects in the region.

Based on these expressions and in alignment with its goals to strengthen regional collaboration to overcome the current hurdles that limit investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Caribbean, the OAS/DSD has been awarded a two-year grant from the U.S. State Department to execute the project entitled *Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative (SECBI)*.

SECBI is linked to the on-going projects, the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas Clearinghouse and the ECPA Energy Efficiency Working Group, and serves as a follow on to the ECPA Caribbean Initiative, and the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP).

In this pursuit, the *Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative* implemented under the auspices of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) addresses critical commercialization challenges related to expanding the development and use of sustainable energy alternatives as a means of injecting lower cost and less environmentally harmful energy technologies into the energy portfolio in the Caribbean region.

SECBI's beneficiary countries include: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

One of the first SECBI's interventions is to train stakeholders in energy project development services to escalate the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects into the energy portfolio in the region.

The first regional workshop was co-hosted with the Carbon War Room and the Rocky Mountain Institute during the Creating Climate Wealth Global Summit held on February 4-6, 2014 in Miskito and Necker

Islands. This summit was relevant, as it served as a forum to introduce the SECBI project among high-level government delegates, but also to harmonize with other agencies and initiatives.

The second regional workshop to be held in Saint Lucia on August 19, 2014, targets senior energy government delegates with the goal of discussing the experiences of past and current support for energy project and policy development and to identify specific requests for assistance to address one or more of the aforementioned challenges among official delegates and development partners.

## Preliminary Agenda

<b>9:00 am</b>	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b>  <i>Mr. Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States</i></p>
<b>9:10 am</b>	<p><b>Opening Remarks: The Importance of Sustainable Energy to the Caribbean Region</b>  <i>Hon. James Fletcher, Minister for Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology</i></p>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<p><b>Consultation Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional snapshot</li> <li>• Presentation of consultation goals and desired outcomes of workshop</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitated by Mrs. Christina Becker-Birck, OAS Consultant</i></p>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of OAS activities in the Caribbean</li> <li>• Background on SECBI</li> </ul> <p><i>Ms. Carolina Peña, OAS/DSD</i></p>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<b>10:45 am</b>	<p><b>Technical Assistance: What has worked? What hasn't?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of what types of technical assistance and donor support have most impacted the growth of national sustainable energy markets</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitated by Christina Becker-Birck, OAS Consultant</i></p>
<b>11:45 am</b>	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion</b></p> <p><i>This session will bring together development partners to present on-going and up-coming efforts in the Region. (12 minutes each)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States – Mr. Leonard Deane</i></li> <li>2. <i>Carbon War Room – Mrs. Maya Doolub</i></li> <li>3. <i>European Union – Mr. Jannik VAA</i></li> <li>4. <i>Caribbean Development Bank – Mrs. Tessa Williams</i></li> <li>5. <i>U.S. Department of Energy – Mrs. Nadia Rhazi and Mr. Gary Ward</i></li> <li>6. <i>Clean Energy Solutions Centre – Mrs. Christina Becker-Birck</i></li> </ol> <p><i>Facilitated by Cletus Springer OAS/DSD</i></p>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
<b>2:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Concurrent Groups Breakout: Technical Assistance: Where are the gaps?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion to identify technical assistance needs and priorities</li> <li>• Identify potential levers to advance the discussions for stakeholders</li> <li>• Develop more specific collaboration opportunities</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitated by Christina Becker-Birck, OAS Consultant</i></p>
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<b>3:15 pm</b>	<p><b>Plenary Session – Breakout Group Reports</b></p> <p><i>This session will expedite a dialogue for coordination and information sharing among participants. The groups will present recommendations for technical assistance.</i></p> <p><i>Facilitated by Cletus Springer and Carolina Peña, OAS/DSD</i></p>
<b>5:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Adjournment and closing remarks</b>  <i>By Cletus Springer, Director, OAS/DSD</i></p>