



Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

**ECPA**



# newsletter clearinghouse

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*One Year After the 2010 Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas: First Issue of the ECPA Clearinghouse Newsletter*

*Government of Panama to Host Regional Critical Energy and Climate Issues Dialogue and ECPA Meeting*

*Presidents of Brazil, Chile and the United States Underscore Importance of ECPA*

*Clearinghouse to Launch New ECPA Website*

*ECPA Factsheet*

*World Bank Releases Study on Caribbean Electricity Supply Options*

ONE YEAR AFTER THE 2010 ENERGY AND CLIMATE MINISTERIAL OF THE AMERICAS: FIRST ISSUE OF THE ECPA CLEARINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER

The Clearinghouse of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) is pleased to launch this newsletter to reach out to a broad and diverse audience. In this newsletter you will find information about ECPA and its initiatives.

### Why ECPA?

At the April 2009 Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the leaders of the Americas underscored that energy and climate change are among the most important issues confronting our future, and they reaffirmed their commitment to work together toward a clean energy future. Responding to these shared challenges, U.S. President Obama invited all governments in the Western Hemisphere to join in an Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA). President Obama said "our hemisphere has bountiful natural resources that could make renewable energy plentiful and sustainable, while creating jobs for our people." An Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, he said, "will help us learn from one another, share technologies, leverage investment, and maximize our comparative advantage."

### How does it Work?

ECPA fosters partnerships across the Americas to achieve low carbon economic growth and development. It is a flexible mechanism through which governments, on a voluntary basis, may lead multi-country or bilateral initiatives to promote clean energy, advance energy security, fight energy poverty, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ECPA initiatives can involve the private sector, civil society and academia, international organizations such as the World Bank, and Inter-American institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of the American States, the Latin American Energy Organization, and others.

### Seven Pillars of ECPA

The initiatives focus on seven themes:

**Energy Efficiency:** Promote best policy practices through assistance in developing building codes and standards in the industrial and residential sectors, as well as training for energy audits.

**Renewable Energy:** Accelerate clean energy via project support, policy dialogues, scientific collaboration, and the clean energy technology network.

**Cleaner and More Efficient Use of Fossil Fuels:** Promote clean energy technologies to reduce both conventional pollution and the carbon footprint of fossil fuels, as well as best practices on land use management.

**Energy Infrastructure:** Foster modernized, integrated, and more resilient energy infrastructure, particularly electrical grids and gas pipelines.

**Energy Poverty:** Target urban and rural energy poverty with strategies to promote sustainable urban development and improve access to modern clean energy services and appropriate technologies in rural areas that can improve public health and reduce fuel wood use that benefits forest management.

**Sustainable Forests and Land Use:** Reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance carbon sequestration in the land use sector, including through the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

**Adaptation:** Assist vulnerable countries and communities with strategies to understand and reduce their vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

**GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA TO HOST REGIONAL CRITICAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE ISSUES DIALOGUE AND ECPA MEETING Event provides opportunity for public, private, financial and non-governmental sectors to engage in open dialogue to address energy development in the Americas.**

Energy and climate have been priorities for quite some time in Latin America and the Caribbean. The countries have gone through great strides to improve access to

energy and start addressing climate change challenges through adaptation and policies to curb emissions. Although a lot has been accomplished, a lot remains to be done.

In April 2010, the ministers of energy of the Americas gathered in Washington DC for the Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas. The senior officials analyzed ways to further cooperation in clean en-

ergy, thereby fostering the creation of new jobs, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthening regional ties. The meeting convened by the Secretariat of Energy of Panama will follow up on this dialogue.

The regional dialogue and ECPA meeting will be held on April 7-8, 2011 in Panama City. The high-level event will focus on energy sector challenges and their impact on climate change. The private sector

will be invited to share ideas on these issues. The forum will also create an opportunity to better understand the ECPA initiatives and projects that have been developed or are under development. The U.S. Departments of Energy and State, the Institute of the Americas and the Organization of American States are supporting Panama's Energy Secretariat in organizing the dialogue. For more information, or to download the meeting agenda go to [www.ecpamericas.org](http://www.ecpamericas.org).



PRESIDENTS OF BRAZIL, CHILE AND THE UNITED STATES UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE OF ECPA  
The leaders of the three nations acknowledged the contributions of the Partnership



Obama and Rousseff delivered a joint statement at the Palácio do Planalto in Brasilia.

The presidents of Brazil and the United States underscored the importance of ECPA at a joint statement delivered during president Obama's state visit to Brazil. The leaders also recognized the relevance of the project "Sustainable Urban Planning and Energy Efficient Construction for Low-Income Areas of the Americas" led by Brazil.

This effort emphasizes urban development and planning in low-income areas of cities. Given the high rate of urbanization in the Americas, support for this initiative offers the potential to spark a significant long term reduction of the carbon footprint of cities.

Brazil was the first country to offer a leadership role in ECPA by launching an initiative to promote energy-efficient housing and improve living conditions for low-income residents. Brazil also conveyed its intention to host an ECPA Ministerial Meeting in the future.

**Andean Glacier Monitoring Research Center Launched in Chile**

President Obama met with the President of Chile, Sebastian Piñera, in Santiago. Both leaders reiterated their countries' commitment to pursuing clean energy technologies, energy security, economic growth, and environmental stewardship. Consistent with the goals of ECPA, the two countries launched the Andean Glacier Monitoring Research Center. The center's goal is to monitor the area and model glacial futures for the hemisphere.



Obama and Piñera at La Moneda Palace in Santiago, Chile.

ECPA FACTSHEET

The region is working to advance the development and deployment of innovative clean energy technologies to combat global climate change, enhance national security, and advance sustainable development and green growth. The United States, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador and Mexico have launched close to 40 different initiatives and projects throughout the region. Progress is tracked and shared on the ECPA Clearinghouse, managed by the OAS.

A complete ECPA factsheet may be downloaded at [www.ecpamericas.org](http://www.ecpamericas.org).

WORLD BANK RELEASES STUDY ON CARIBBEAN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY OPTIONS

The report "Caribbean Regional Electricity Supply Options: Toward Greater Security, Renewables and Resilience for the Region" explores the potential for multi-country energy development paths conceived as means to diversify the electricity mix, improve reliability and deploy cleaner energy resources in the Caribbean.

Consistent with the objectives of this study, the OAS is implementing the ECPA project "Promotion of a Regional Approach to Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean Basin". The project considers opportunities for clean energy, energy efficiency and interconnections among Caribbean islands. It advances solutions that will contribute to creating sub-regional electricity markets. Information about the activities of ECPA in the Caribbean, and a link to the World Bank study, is provided at [www.ecpamericas.org](http://www.ecpamericas.org).

CLEARINGHOUSE TO LAUNCH NEW ECPA WEBSITE

Improved look and functionality will enable access to information on partners and initiatives.

The ECPA Clearinghouse is working on the production of a new website to serve as a platform for dissemination of outputs and outcomes of Partnership initiatives implemented by participating countries. Users will be allowed to register to receive updates from ECPA, including a newsletter and information on latest Partnership activities. The ECPA Clearinghouse will manage the website and update its content. Additionally, initiative implementers will be allowed to upload project updates directly.

ECPA Clearinghouse

At the Energy and Climate Symposium held in Lima in June 2009, the partners of ECPA instructed the Organization of American States (OAS) to operate the ECPA Clearinghouse. The goal of the Clearinghouse is to enable the development of country-lead



Home banner of future ECPA website to go live in late May.

projects, ideas, and initiatives that expand renewable energy and energy efficiency markets in the region. The OAS, through the Department of Sustainable Development, contributes to this goal by managing the Clearinghouse and developing, promoting and coordinating ECPA processes, engaging the governments of the Americas in the energy and climate debate, providing technical assistance geared at identifying challenges and solutions, and raising awareness with regard to sustainable energy develop-

ment, deployment and use. The offices of the Clearinghouse are located at the OAS headquarters in Washington.

Contact Information

Mark Lambrides  
Chief, Energy and Climate Change Mitigation  
Department of Sustainable Development  
Organization of American States  
1889 F St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
E-Mail: [mlambrides@oas.org](mailto:mlambrides@oas.org)  
Phone: +1 (202) 458-6261

