



# Energy and Climate Change Mitigation

Department of Sustainable Development

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## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO SUPPORT OAS PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN THE CARIBBEAN

The project 'Building Low-Carbon Communities in the Caribbean' was selected among several proposals submitted under the 'Low-Carbon Communities of the Americas Initiative'

In support of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) announced by President Obama at the 2009 Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago, Secretary Steven Chu announced that the OAS is one of the three institutions that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected under the Low-Carbon Communities of the Americas (LCCA) — a program launched in June 2009 to assist countries in Latin America with sustainable energy market transformation initiatives.

"DOE is committed to advancing clean energy technology development and deployment globally," said Secretary Chu. "The Low-Carbon Communities of the Americas initiative offers an opportunity for the Department to work closely with our neighbors to reduce energy use, increase energy security, and promote a low-carbon future across the Western Hemisphere."

Through the LCCA program, DOE invited countries to submit proposals for collaboration in areas including renewable energy development and building and industrial energy efficiency. DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), along with other national laboratories, will provide technical assistance to countries receiving support under the initiative.

The proposal from the OAS and several Caribbean governments will enable to expand the development and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency systems, helping to increase the sustainability of their energy supplies while reducing carbon emissions. The project



will target local training and technical programs on how to conduct energy efficiency audits and retrofits. There will also be a focus on strengthening communities' capacity to review and evaluate resource assessments related to indigenous renewable natural resources. This project will engage St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, The Bahamas, Antigua & Barbuda, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

## PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION MOBILIZES RESOURCES TO ASSIST EARTHQUAKE-STRICKEN HAITI

**PADF is the natural disaster relief arm of the OAS with more than 150 people working with Haiti on economic development, disaster mitigation and human rights protection.**



After the devastating 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti, PADF is encouraging people to donate through its website. "This is a critical time for Haiti, and our neighbors need our help," said John Sanbrailo, PADF's Executive Director. "PADF will be working with civil protection authorities, the private sector and community organizations to provide immediate and long-term assistance."

PADF set up a safe and secure website so individuals may find out information and make donations.

In December 2009, a study by the OAS had concluded that many of the buildings in Haiti were unlikely to survive an earthquake like the one that devastated Port-au-Prince. "You could tell very easily that these buildings were not going to survive even a [magnitude] 2 earthquake," said Cletus Springer, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development.

To learn more about PADF, or to make a donation, please visit the PADF website at [www.PanAmericanRelief.org](http://www.PanAmericanRelief.org).

**MINISTERS OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE OF THE AMERICAS TO MEET AT OAS HEADQUARTERS**  
**The event is aimed at moving forward a clean energy agenda for the Western Hemisphere**



Historic OAS building on 17th Street and Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C.

At the April 2009 Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, U.S. President Barack Obama invited the governments of the Americas to join in an Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) to expand cooperation on energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner conventional fuels, infrastructure, energy poverty, and financing. The Ministerial will evaluate existing efforts of the ECPA, and develop additional collaborative activities on a bilateral and multilateral basis, as well as between the private and public sectors.

The Ministerial will be held in Washington, DC, on April 15-16, 2010. It will serve as a forum to build the cooperative activities necessary to optimize the use of clean energy to meet our climate goals and advance the energy security of the Western Hemisphere.

The Ministerial will be a two-day event. The first day will be a public event consisting of a public-private sector dialogue on energy market development, including discussion of subsidies, policy and regulatory frameworks, incentives, and public/private partnerships. The opening plenary session will introduce the theme of the Ministerial and be followed by concurrent facilitated roundtable discussions focusing on renewables, regulatory frameworks, energy efficiency, market integration, and climate change.

On the final day, Ministers will spend half a day meeting in private, closed-door sessions to discuss institutional barriers that hinder development of clean energy, next steps in regional cooperation, and identify potential leadership roles at national and sub-regional levels. Ministers will explore possible initiatives in areas including energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy poverty, cleaner fossil fuels, and energy infrastructure.

Attendance is anticipated to be of approximately 150 participants, half of which will be involved in the Ministers' meeting the second day. Attendees will include Western Hemisphere energy ministers, regulatory agencies, energy companies, energy agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), institutions of higher learning, regional energy organizations, and financial institutions.

**SAINT LUCIA FINALIZES NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY WHITE PAPER**

**OAS and GTZ supported this effort aimed at advancing sustainable energy as a critical ingredient of the island nation's development**

The government of Saint Lucia recently finalized a National Energy Policy White Paper. The OAS and the German cooperation agency (GTZ) supported this lengthy process, which will help Saint Lucia achieve higher energy security and independence.

The prospective policy proposes the exploitation of new and indigenous energy resources, and promotes energy conservation and efficiency. In keeping up with its policy-making responsibilities, the government should continuously analyze the results of its interventions, and amend the energy policy, strategy and legislation regularly as needed. According to the White Paper, these measures will contribute to a prosperous economy benefiting from the supply of cost-efficient energy, the protection of customers, and the minimization of negative environmental impacts. Government intervention in day-to-day operation of the power sector will be kept at a minimum. The National Energy Policy White Paper is to be formally submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval in the near future.

**REEEP ATTENDS IRENA'S THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION IN ABU DHABI**  
**500 delegates from 120 IRENA member states attended the event**

Marianne Osterkorn, Director General of REEEP, attended the Third Session of the Preparatory Commission for IRENA on 17 January 2010 in Abu Dhabi.

The Preparatory Commission consists of IRENA's signatory states and acts as the interim institutional body until the organization's official statutes enter force upon the 25th member country ratification.

The focus of this meeting, where REEEP was an official observer, was the 2010 work program and budget, as well as the interim financial, staff, and secondment rules of the

Commission. "The emergence of IRENA brings a long-awaited push for renewable energy at the international level. We look forward to collaboration with the organization, particularly as its work programme takes form," said Osterkorn.

With an adopted budget of US\$13,7 million for 2010, IRENA will focus on building a network of international renewable energy experts, starting to map the global potential of renewables and build up a comprehensive database of policies to promote renewable energy. H el ene Pelosse,



Interim Director-General of IRENA stated: "IRENA will become a one-stop-shop for up-to-date and relevant information on renewable energy. With this knowledge, IRENA will assist its members in advancing renewables in their own national policies and programmes."

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)  
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