



# Energy and Climate Change Mitigation

Department of Sustainable Development

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FIRST ISSUE OF THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Reader:

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the OAS is pleased to launch this first Sustainable Energy Newsletter. The objective is to reach out to a broad and diverse audience interested in renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change topics.

For more than 10 years, the Department has been serving the needs of the member states relating to energy policy development and legal reform. The Department, through its Energy and Climate Change Mitigation Division ably headed by Mark Lambrides, manages a suite of programs and projects including the Sustainable Energy Partnership for the Americas (SEPA) which supports the development and use of sustainable energy technologies and services within OAS member states. The Department endeavors to enable the design and implementation of policies,



laws, strategies, and actions for the advancement of sustainable energy that meets the energy needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own energy needs.

Achieving this mission is consistent with the purposes enshrined in the OAS Charter, which seeks to strengthen peace and security; promote and consolidate democracy; promote economic, social, and cultural development; and eradicate extreme poverty.

In the ever-changing realm of energy, where policy issues become pressing overnight and new ideas, concepts and technologies are continuously unveiled, we felt that a newsletter dedicated to the OAS Depart-

ment of Sustainable Development's sustainable energy projects, activities and services would help readers keep up with cutting-edge developments and policy recommendations.

In addition to position articles, recent papers, and other activities highlighted in the newsletter, you will also find links to useful websites dealing with energy. The newsletter will be published and distributed by e-mail and posted on our website on a quarterly basis. We hope it will become an easy source of information for sustainable energy developments in the Americas.

Sincerely,

**Cletus Springer**

**Director**

**Department of Sustainable Development**

## HEMISPHERE LEADERS MEET IN LIMA TO DISCUSS FRAMEWORK FOR AN "ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE AMERICAS"

Energy ministers, vice ministers and other high-level national authorities and experts from over 20 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean met at the Americas Energy and Climate Symposium in Lima, Peru on June 15-16, 2009. More than 275 people, including policy makers, private sector representatives, academicians, and non-governmental organizations gathered to identify collaborative actions on energy and climate and address the formalization of the

Energy and Climate Partnership for the Americas.

The Lima Symposium follows the dialogue on energy initiated at the Fifth Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in April of this year. On that occasion, the Presidents of the Americas agreed on a Summit Declaration which calls for the governments to work together to guarantee energy security, promote alternative energy sources, and act jointly to confront the effects of climate change. Further, the

President of the United States, Barack Obama, invited the countries of the Hemisphere to join "a partnership that will enhance energy efficiency, improve our infrastructure, and support investments that can make energy more affordable."

During the Symposium countries of the Hemisphere discussed the organizational framework for the partnership and several nations highlighted new or existing initiatives that will contribute to the program it will promote. These

included the Renewable Energy Center in Santiago, Chile; the Energy Efficiency Center in Lima, Peru; the Green Fund, based in Mexico; and the Sustainable Low Income Housing Initiative of Brazil. "This Symposium represents a unique effort in shaping a hemispheric energy and climate partnership that will contribute to the enhanced sustainability of the energy sector in the region" said José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

## STUDY ON TECHNICAL AND POLICY ASSISTANCE FOR BIOFUEL MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN EL SALVADOR



Sugar cane cutters working a field in the Dominican Republic  
Photo by Claudia de Windt

The DSD will present the outcomes of the study "Technical and Policy Assistance for Biofuel Market Development in El Salvador". The event will be held on July 14, 2009, at the United

States Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador. The purpose of the study is to enhance the baseline knowledge on ethanol blending and logistics in the context of the biofuels pricing and policy framework under consideration in El Salvador. The study was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State and the Government of Brazil. El Salvador's Ministry of Finance was a key partner in this effort. The biofuels study was produced in the framework of the US-Brazil Biofuels Bilateral Agreement.

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### The US-Brazil Biofuels Bilateral Agreement

Brazil and the United States have developed considerable expertise in biofuel production. In March 2007 both countries entered into a biofuels bilateral agreement to provide technical, policy, and financial assistance related to bio-energy to third party countries and to support sustainable biofuel projects and programs that diversify energy production and improve economic sustainability and competitiveness. Beneficiaries of this initiative include the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador and St. Kitts and Nevis. It is hoped that future phases of this initiative will potentially extend to other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## REEEP FINANCES 49 CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS GLOBALLY, SEVEN IN LAC

REEEP will fund forty-nine new clean energy projects in 25 countries, all designed to help kick-start the uptake of renewables and energy efficiency. This seventh funding round is the largest ever, representing a 46% increase over the sixth disbursement in June 2007.

Seven projects will be funded in Latin America, of which five will be implemented in Brazil, one of

them in co-operation with Mozambique, and two in Mexico. These projects cover a wide array of issues such as preparing legislative framework for renewable energies, promoting local biogas or creating a cap and trade market for the auto industry.

This year saw Australia join the United Kingdom, Norway, Ireland, Italy

and New Zealand as REEEP program donors. Since it was founded in 2004, REEEP has granted almost US\$ 15 million to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts.



## ENERGY SECTOR CONSULTATIONS TO BE HELD IN THE CARIBBEAN

In 2008 the DSD started implementing the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP). This initiative seeks to accelerate the transition toward cleaner, sustainable energy use in the Caribbean by addressing market conditions for the introduction, development and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency systems.

As part of CSEP, in July the DSD has planned three major energy sector consultations in the Caribbean:

- Government Stakeholder Consultation for Setting the Legal Framework in St. Kitts & Nevis (July 2),
- Multi-sector Stakeholder Consultation on Grenada's prospective National Energy Policy (July 28), and

- Government and Multi-Sector Stakeholder Consultation to present St. Vincent & the Grenadines' new National Energy Policy and explore coordination arrangements for its effective implementation (July 31).

The energy sector consultations are intended to engage the public in energy sector reform throughout the Caribbean.

*"This Symposium represents a unique effort in shaping a hemispheric energy and climate partnership that will contribute to the enhanced sustainability of the energy sector in the region,"* said

José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, about the Americas Energy and Climate Symposium held in Lima, Peru, on June 15-16, 2009.

At the Symposium, Hemisphere leaders discussed the establishment of an energy and climate partnership for the Americas.

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