



**Organization of
American States**

Press Release

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LCCC

LOW-CARBON COMMUNITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN (LCCC) 2nd REGIONAL ENERGY WORKSHOP, Golden, Colorado, USA

The Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), hosted the 2nd Low-Carbon Communities in the Caribbean (LCCC) workshop on March 1 and 2 at NREL's Headquarters in Golden, Colorado, USA.

The LCCC project aims to enable participating countries to implement actions and strategies geared toward increasing the sustainability of their energy supplies while reducing carbon emissions from the energy sector through the development and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency systems. One of the multiple Energy and Climate Change Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) initiatives, the LCCC project is a collaborative effort between NREL and the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS). The initiative is co-financed by the EU-funded Caribbean Sustainable Energy Project (CSEP) executed by the OAS and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Attending the workshop were delegates from seven participating LCCC project countries and three other Caribbean countries, including senior representatives from ministries in charge of energy and senior staff of national utilities, along with the executive director of the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC).



LCCC Energy Workshop participants and NREL senior staff, NREL, Golden, Colorado, USA

The two-day workshop, which focused on addressing the common energy challenges faced by the Caribbean region, featured presentations by Mark Lambrides and Kevin de Cuba of OAS, as well as NREL senior staff and technology and project deployment experts. The presenters covered the various technical, policy, and financing considerations of a wide range of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency and savings alternatives.

Workshop attendees also had an opportunity to experience real-world applications of energy efficiency and renewable energy (EE/RE) technology innovations during an extensive tour of the new Research Support Facility (RSF) on the NREL campus. The tour highlighted the state-of-the-art design, materials, and construction techniques used in the RSF, which was designed to achieve a Platinum certification as defined by the U.S. Green Buildings Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) Green Building Rating System and is among the most energy-efficient office buildings in the world.



Visits to the NREL Research Support Facility and labs

The tour also included NREL's research labs, as well as a field trip to NREL's National Wind Technology Center, where multiple wind turbines and anemometers of various make and design are tested on performance, durability, and other technical aspects as part of the R&D evolution toward wide-scale commercialization of these wind power technologies.



Renewable Energy Technologies tested at the NREL's National Wind Technology Center

The workshop culminated in a facilitated discussion among Caribbean delegates and the OAS, NREL, and DOE presenters. This interactive session provided a forum for attendees to raise questions and concerns related to resource assessments; geothermal, solar, and wind energy development; interconnection and grid integration; and more.

A next step of the LCCC project will be the publication of a peer-reviewed regional report of the RE/EE status of the LCCC project countries. The report, jointly prepared by OAS and NREL, will reflect the challenges and opportunities for sustainable energy market development in the Caribbean based on interactions with key energy sector stakeholders and other regional organizations and technical assistance agencies.

For more information about the LCCC project, please see: www.ecpamericas.org

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