



About CARICOM Energy

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is a grouping of twenty countries - fifteen Member States and five Associate Members. Stretching from The Bahamas in the north to Suriname and Guyana in south, CARICOM is home to approximately sixteen million citizens.

In 2008, the CARICOM Secretariat commenced the Energy Programme as one of the areas of work within the Directorate of Trade and Economic Integration. The Energy Programme was mandated to coordinate the finalization of the regional energy policy and given responsibility for the strategic management of a programmatic approach to the Region's energy issues.

In 2009, the CARICOM Secretariat, through the Energy Unit, commissioned the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS). The C-SERMS was designed to build on the existing efforts within the Region, as well as, to provide Member States with joint regional sustainable energy targets and a common, coherent strategy for implementing the regional energy policy.

Approved in 2013, the CARICOM Energy Policy promotes a shift to sustainable energy, through the increased use of renewable energy sources and improvements in energy efficiency. In implementing the regional energy policy, there is a requirement for country level harmonization of policies and actions in a number of key areas of commonality, such that:

- The regulatory framework for promoting renewable power, as far as possible, include, *inter alia*, an Interconnection Policy that caters for the sale of excess power to the grid by both small scale renewable energy operators and commercial enterprises;
- There is facilitation of renewable energy integration into the national grids, to include the upgrading of ageing transmission and distribution grids with modern, smart elements; and
- There is increased cooperation and collaboration among complementary sectors related to energy including, *inter alia*, tourism, manufacturing, waste management, agriculture, water, climate change, and transport with increased inter-sectoral coordination and greater cooperation between the public and private sectors on sustainable energy matters.

The C-SERMS, also approved in 2013, provides the basis for a more targeted approach to advancing sustainable energy development under the regional policy, and in so doing, acts as a framework for articulating, monitoring and adjusting regional level strategies, and for securing commitments from Member States towards achievement of the targets that are established. A major output of the C-SERMS, thus far, is a Baseline Report and Assessment that, *inter alia*:

- Provided an overview of the regional energy situation, including the identification of critical information and data gaps; and
- Recommended – at the time – short (2017), medium (2022), and long term (2027) targets for share of renewable energy in electricity production, energy efficiency improvements, and carbon dioxide emissions reductions within the power sector.

Currently, the Region, with the support of a number of key development partners, has embarked on work towards further elucidation of the C-SERMS. This is expected to:

- Provide high resolution details on the renewable energy resources, energy efficiency opportunities, power grid infrastructure and energy service requirements within Member States;
- Determine the appropriate mechanisms, including energy information and planning support, through which the regional C-SERMS targets can realistically be linked to the national scenarios; and
- Identify the actions, investments and strategies that are necessary for meeting the objectives and targets of the C-SERMS at both the country and regional levels.

The expectation is that attainment of the C-SERMS targets and objectives will be derived through concrete actions that open regional markets and planning processes to renewable energy options and energy efficiency opportunities, through a transparent and data driven approach that, *inter alia*: (i) promotes public-private partnerships for financing of such options and opportunities; and (ii) builds the requisite human and institutional capacities to exploit them effectively.

To support the dedicated implementation focus that is required for the regional energy transition, the CARICOM Secretariat has been “driving” the establishment of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE). The Centre is intended to function as the implementation hub for the CARICOM Energy Policy, as well as the regional roadmap and strategy.

CARICOM Energy has now been established as the collective set of priority initiatives, policies, programmes and actions (PIPPAs) that underpin the integrated work on the regional strategy for the sustainable energy transition. CARICOM Energy is managed by the CARICOM Secretariat, with planning supported by the C-SERMS Platform and implementation coordinated by the CCREEE.

The PIPPA's contained within the CARICOM Energy framework are geared towards, *inter alia*:

- Enabling policy and regulatory environments to attract investment in indigenous, especially renewable, energy supplies, supported by strengthened independent regulatory authority, that provide fair returns on capital investments while simultaneously helping to ensure reliable and affordable energy services to citizens that is predictable in pricing, quality and supply;
- Identifying and promoting incentives for future projects which can support the regional energy transformation;

- Encouraging the use of financial risk mitigation instruments and blended public private financing structures to reduce the cost of capital;
- Strengthen the technical and institutional capacities to assess and develop renewable energy potentials, generate proposals for bankable renewable energy projects, and manage their integration into energy systems;
- Disseminating and promoting successful models and approaches for creating sustainable markets for renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Intensifying efforts to assess and promote the development of diverse sources of renewable energy, including those not commonly considered in islands settings, such as biomass, geothermal and marine, but which can have a transformative impact to countries within the Region;
- Accelerating the deployment of solar and wind, with solutions to integrating these resources into the energy system, considering both the need for system flexibility due to their variability, as well as the transformational deployment of decentralized solutions;
- Enhancing the application of solutions such as waste-to-energy systems, renewable energy desalination systems, hybrid systems, to fully benefit from the potential renewable energy offers to the power sector, and exploiting opportunities to use renewable energy in end use sectors, such as transport, that can constitute up to 50% of the primary energy demand of some countries; and
- Increasing intra-regional and extra-regional cooperation, especially with other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to pursue the exchange of experiences to accelerate learning.