



Department of Environment
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of Anguilla
The Valley, ANGUILLA, B.W.I.

WORKSHOP REPORT

Administrative Information

Name of Workshop: Sixth Biennial Caribbean Environmental Forum & Exhibition (CEF-6) in collaboration with Sixteenth Annual Wider Caribbean Waste Management Conference (RECARIBE 2012)

Organizers of Workshop: CARICOM, Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Clean Islands International, United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR RCU) and International Water Association (IWA).

Dates of Workshop:

Start date: May 21st, 2012

End date: May 25th, 2012

Country and Place of Workshop: St. Kitts and Nevis - St. Kitts Marriott Resort and Royal Beach Casino

Name of Anguilla Attendee(s): Mr. DALLEN CONNOR (BEng) –Coordinator Environment, Pollution Control and Prevention.

Theme of Workshop: The Green Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in Managing Health, Water, Waste, Land, Energy, Climate Change and our Natural Resources

Objectives of Workshop: To promote and facilitate the dialogue about Green Economy from a Caribbean regional perspective by bringing together, government, the private sector, civil society, the media and others to the event.

Participation funded by: JNCC

Nature of participation and representation: Participant [OT government]

Prepared by: DALLEN CONNOR
Date of Report: October 18th 2012

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Summary

The Sixth Biennial Caribbean Environment Forum, Exhibition (CEF -6) and conjunction with 16th Wider Caribbean Waste Management Conference (ReCaribe 2012) workshops was significant and timely as the Department of Environment has begun to institute and develop green environmental initiatives and programs at this time of great economic hard-ship in the island.

The workshop was approximately a week long (5 working days) May 21st -25th 2012, where Organizers, Sponsors and Exhibitors from both regionally and Internationally, got together to provide educational and technical assistance to island communities for developing best sustainable environmental practices.

Day 1 of the workshop was the official opening Ceremony along with an Exhibition Tour which was done to provide an overview of the coming workshop. Among the invited speakers, was Hon. Dr. Earl Asim Martin the Minister who is responsible for Energy in St. Kitts and Nevis; He gave an overview of the island energy sector present programs and the proposed initiatives for the future. Some of these initiatives and accomplishments were:

- St. Kitts and Nevis currently received funds from international donor(s) to build an additional 5.2 Mega Watt Wind farm on the island of St. Kitts.
- They have replaced 1000 street lights with energy saving lighting (green lighting)
- Through the solar energy deployment, the government of St. Kitts has supplied 30% of its energy demands in the government offices by funds received from international donor(s).
- The electricity company in St. Kitts and Nevis is 100% owned by the Local Government
- The Geothermal plant is in its final stage of energy distribution, and it has the capacity to supply both St. Kitts and Nevis energy demand.

At the conclusion of the Opening Session, the participants and the facilitators were led to the Exhibition Area where exhibitors displayed a large range of technological and environmental driven projects which they have undertaken in their country or state. This Exhibition was both educational and stimulating for all participants.

On Day 2, the introductory remarks were made by Mr. Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development and the Environment, Organization of American States (OAS). Additionally, five (5) other keynote addresses were given by:

- His Excellency Sir K Dwight Venner, Governor, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
- The Honorable Dr. James Fletcher, Minister of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology, Government of Saint Lucia.
- The Honorable Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Guyana
- The Honorable Denis Lowe, Minister of the Environment and Drainage, Government of Barbados
- Dr. Didacus Jules, Registrar, Caribbean Examinations Council.

All keynote addresses attempted to highlight the list of achievements in the member countries or states in an effort of building the green economy perspective. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, highlighted among the achievements, that Guyana has begun pursuing the development of a 200 Mega Watt (MW) hydro-electricity plant and bio – fuel production. This hydropower plant is co-financed through a grant from the European Union's Energy Facility; the project is expected to start implementation and to be completed within 3 years.

On Day 3 and 4, the participants of the conference were separated in different parallel sessions. There were a total of 10 parallel sessions which ran in conjunction to each other. These parallel sessions were:

- Waste and Energy
- Water Resources Management
- Coastal Zone Management
- ReCaribe Meeting: Waste Management

- US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and IWA Water Safety Training
- Sustainable Approaches to Natural Resources Management
- Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management
- Ecohealth
- Models, Tools and Appropriate Technology
- Global Environment Facility International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF-IW:LEARN)

At this meeting, I expressed interest in most of the parallel session areas, as I viewed all sessions to have equal significance to Anguilla's context. I attended the parallel session – ReCaribe Meeting: Waste Management.

In the Waste management session, welcome and conference Overview was given by Randy Brown, Executive Director, Clean Islands. Founded in April 1992 in Abaco, The Bahamas, Clean Islands International, Inc. has an international board of directors, and international membership consisting of professionals, advocates, environmentalists, conservationists, solid waste professionals and interested individuals.

Throughout the course of the two day parallel sessions there were seven presenters who discussed a range of topics. These topics and presenter were:

- Solid Waste Management in the Region: Challenges and Lessons by *Shermaine Clauzel*
- Green Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in Managing Solid Waste by David A. Simmons
- Grenadines Sustainable Waste Management Initiative by Winsbert Quow
- Greening Businesses in Barbados by Lani Edgehill
- Exploring the ins and outs of equipment to process recyclable material by Buddy Himes
- E- Waste and E- stewardship by Nadine Lakatoo
- E- Waste Collection and Shipping Requirements by Andrew L. Wade

Over the two days, a great number of valuable information was shared with the participants and the presenters. Some of the issues related to waste management in the region are that all member states and countries, including Anguilla, have great difficulty disposing of vehicles tyres from the landfills in a sustainable manner. Barbados mentioned that they produce 120,000 tyres/ year. One country representative mentioned that they had gone as far as burning some of these tyres to control the amount of the tyres in the landfill. Majority of the member states stated that Guadeloupe used to have a recycling facility which they in the past shipped their tyres for recycling purposes. Today, this facility is not functional/ operational. The Majority of the member states mentioned that the situation is becoming a major problem to their countries, whereas today, secondhand tires are imported into the island at an alarming rate, and therefore, producing more tyres into the landfill in a short period of time.

Another issue that was mentioned was that most Caribbean islands/ member states have great difficulty disposing waste oil in a sustainable manner. Member state, St. Kitts and Nevis expressed that they have over 33,000 gallons of waste oil stored and need to be disposed in a sustainable manner.

Conclusion/recommendations

Greening the Economy is a multi-lateral approach that involves inputs from the public and private sector, the regional and the International sectors with one common understanding, to exploit available opportunities and at the same time maximize benefits. Anguilla has the potential to become a green economy. However, the necessary measures need to be put in place to maximize the benefits of a green economy. In Anguilla, there is much to be done to explore vast opportunities in various sectors, such as health, water, waste, Land, Energy, climate change and our Natural Resources.

The Department of Environment has already begun to explore different potential green projects that have both environmental and economic benefits for the island. These two proposed projects are as follows:

1. Solar Electricity Generation – Government Leading by Example in Solar Deployment
2. Establishment of a Waste Oil Collection and Management Facility Project

The purpose of these two proposed projects in building the green of the economy goes as follows:

Solar Electricity Generation – Pilot Project to reduce the government cost of electricity by 30%.

To enhance environmental sustainability and reducing electricity costs to the Government of Anguilla by increasing Energy Security in Country through the deployment of renewable energy technologies. Anguilla currently imports 100 per cent of fossil fuels as a means of facilitating energy throughout the island. Therefore, since fuel prices are extremely high, the Government of Anguilla is heavily paying the cost of high utilities bills. This pilot project will act as a catalyst which will not only advocate change in Anguilla's Community and its dependence on fossil fuel, but sensitizes the rest of the region, especially the UKOTs, that the government of Anguilla is leading by example in addressing the issue of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation through renewable energy technologies.

In the Caribbean, Kitts and Nevis is in the lead of deployment of renewable energy. Anguilla can learn and build on St. Kitts and Nevis existing model so when it comes to implementation of the Anguilla model we will not make the same blunders, through lowering the risks and producing maximum rewards.

Establishment of a Waste oil Collection and Management Facility Project

To Maintain or prevent environment degradation/contamination to the environment from hazardous substance such as waste oil/used oil by establishment, a permanent, state-of-the-art Collection & Reprocessing facility should be developed for use by Anguilla community to recycle their bulky oil and lubricant waste. The site would also include a retail element for members of the public to purchase recycled oil.

Even though Barbados is the leading entity in the Caribbean dealing with waste management issues through Recycling and Processing of waste materials, they have not yet added this component to their list. Member states including Anguilla which heavily depend on ground water express these concerns, because in Anguilla, majority of the waste oil/ used oil are not disposed in an environmental sound manner. These waste products from hotels, restaurants and service shops are dumped in uncontrolled landfill or ground.

Over the years Anguilla has made significant progress in development of Draft Energy Policy's and a comprehensive renewable energy model for Anguilla as a means for striving for independence of oil. In February 2013, the Department will be conducting a workshop Greening the Economy which consultants along with the Local countries will be given feedback of a synopsis of what the island has to offer. Anguilla is in the perfect situation, (low population, economically frustrated) to build a green economy which can act as a model the rest of the region to adopt.

I think this workshop was timely and the lessons learned in the Caribbean can help Anguilla in its development of facilitating a Green Economy.