

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**and**  
**THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

**I.     PARTICIPANTS**

The Participants in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the Department of Energy of the United States of America (DOE) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS), a public international organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD).

**II.    BACKGROUND**

DOE and GS/OAS (each a "Participant" or collectively, the "Participants") share a common interest: to promote energy literacy and awareness of the impacts of energy decisions on the environment and climate change in low-income and underserved communities. The Participants plan to work together in the spirit of cooperation and open communication, consistent with law, with the primary goal of increasing the knowledge and engagement of these communities in energy decisions, energy literacy, energy efficiency activities, and local climate change mitigation and resilience activities.

Energy is a \$6 trillion market worldwide and presents immense opportunities for workers and minority-owned businesses. The mission of DOE's Minorities in Energy (MIE) Initiative is to provide opportunities for minority community participation in every facet of the energy sector. The DOE MIE Initiative has three goal areas: 1) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education and Workforce Development; 2) Energy Economic Development; and 3) Climate Change.

DOE, through its Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), serves as the lead United States agency facilitating the development of a framework for energy education, called *Energy Literacy: Essential Principles and Fundamental Concepts for Energy Education*.

The Organization of American States (OAS) was chartered in 1948 in Bogotá, Colombia, and the DSD is the main technical arm of the GS/OAS responsible for meeting the needs of the OAS Member States in matters of sustainable development and supporting policy formulation, design, and implementation of technical cooperation projects within the OAS Member States.

A key priority of the DSD is to enable a transition to sustainable energy in OAS Member States, including through the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency alternatives.

To increase awareness regarding sustainability of the energy sector in the Caribbean, the GS/OAS, together with the European Union, launched and executed the Caribbean Energy Education and Awareness Programme (CEEAP) and the communication campaign "Learn and Save" to empower energy literacy through pedagogical innovation in the classroom.

The GS/OAS is the central and permanent organ of the OAS and authorized to conduct cooperative relations in accordance with Article 112 (h) of the OAS Charter and resolution AG / RES.57 (IO / 71).

### **III. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this MOU is to encourage, support, and facilitate the collaboration and sharing of energy literacy, energy efficiency, and climate change educational resources developed independently by each Participant for use in serving its stakeholders. Each Participant intends to contribute to this effort through appropriate means including, but not limited to, program coordination, information sharing, sharing of relevant expertise and educational resources.
2. The effects of climate change will continue to impact minority, tribal, and low-income communities disproportionately. These communities are often ill-equipped to adapt to the impacts of changing weather patterns and often less capable of recovering from weather-related disasters. The Participants intend to increase these vulnerable communities' awareness of climate change impact and related energy policies, and promote the adoption of energy efficiency measures in these communities.

### **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS:**

DOE and GS/OAS envision coordinating future activities, to the extent practical and authorized, such as:

- a. Creating a team to effectively lead the development and distribution of innovative approaches to energy education and energy conservation.
- b. Disseminating information about the Energy Literacy framework to help inform minority, low-income, and other underserved communities in the United States and the Caribbean.

- c. Providing technical advice on energy literacy to the public, formal and informal educators, and students of all ages.
- d. Collaborating to develop new partnerships to support this MOU.
- e. Cross-pollinating mutually beneficial educational information in the Participants' respective newsletters, website content, and blogs when appropriate.
- f. Exchanging technical advice on tactics and research results on addressing energy illiteracy in U.S. and Caribbean civil society.

#### ***DOE's Planned Activities***

As part of this MOU, DOE intends to do the following:

- a. Collaborate with the GS/OAS to educate and disseminate energy literacy materials among OAS Member State institutions and partner educational systems.
- b. Work with the GS/OAS to help support requests for speakers on energy topics that support the DOE mission, with a special emphasis on clean energy.
- c. Provide technical expertise on DOE mission-related topics to GS/OAS to support energy education through OAS Member States and education partners.
- d. Facilitate collaboration on and support of the development and dissemination of energy-related information with OAS Caribbean Member States.
- e. Provide linkages to energy education networks and interested parties to support the goals of this MOU.

#### ***GS/OAS's Planned Activities***

As part of this MOU, the GS/OAS intends to do the following:

- a. Collaborate with DOE to educate and disseminate energy literacy materials among OAS Member State institutions and partner educational systems.
- b. Provide DOE access to energy educational materials developed by GS/OAS. This includes the "Learn and Save" series to be distributed to minority, tribal, and low-income communities in the United States, in line with DOE's MIE Initiative, as decided pursuant to a supplementary written arrangement between the Participants.
- c. Collaborate with DOE to develop a training plan for educators to utilize GS/OAS-developed energy literacy materials, subject to the issuance of the requisite licenses by GS/OAS for copyrighted material.
- d. Identify opportunities to incorporate DOE speakers in GS/OAS-sponsored events to facilitate knowledge sharing from DOE to Caribbean communities.



- e. Work with DOE to develop specific joint outreach activities to further common energy literacy goals.
- f. Participate in shared communications initiatives with DOE on energy literacy as jointly decided by both Participants.
- g. Identify and communicate with organizations in alignment with the goals of this MOU to facilitate additional partnerships.

**V. POINTS OF CONTACT**

The points of contact for administration of this MOU are:

DOE: Jody TallBear, Strategic Initiatives and Policy Advisor  
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585  
Tel: 202-287-5362

GS/OAS: Cletus I Springer, Director  
Department of Sustainable Development  
Organization of American States  
1889 F Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: 202-370-9084

**VI. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. The Participants acknowledge that specific joint outreach activities contemplated by this MOU require further discussion and individual supplementary written arrangements for each program, project and/or activity. Each such supplementary arrangement should specify in detail the following:
  - a. The mutually decided program, project and/or activity;
  - b. The objectives sought;
  - c. The implementing agent of each Participant;
  - d. The work plan: stages, planning and chronology of development;
  - e. The budget and human and material resources for the program, project and/or activity, specifying the planned financial contributions of each Participant (indicating the nature and the amount), the schedule of the contributions and, as required, the property of the material resources that are acquired;

- f. A provision relating to the coordination, notification, and follow-up of the program, project and/or activity; and
  - g. A provision acknowledging this MOU as the framework for the program, project, and/or activity.
- 2. This MOU does not create any legally binding obligations upon either Participant. Furthermore, nothing in this MOU constitutes an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS, the GS/OAS, its personnel and its assets, in accordance with the OAS Charter, relevant agreements and pursuant to general principles and practices of international law.
  - 3. Each Participant should conduct the activities contemplated by this MOU in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and other legal requirements to which it is subject.
  - 4. The ability of each Participant to engage in the activities contemplated by this MOU is subject to the availability of funding, personnel, and other resources.
  - 5. All communications that reference joint sponsorships of activities conducted under this MOU are to be approved in advance by both Participants. This includes, but is not limited to, press releases, announcements, marketing communications, and third party engagements.

#### **VII. TERM, MODIFICATION, AND DISCONTINUATION.**

- 1. Cooperation under this MOU may commence upon signature and continue for a period of two years unless discontinued by one or both Participants.
- 2. The Participants may discontinue this MOU at any time in writing by mutual consent. Alternatively, a Participant that wishes to discontinue its participation under this MOU should endeavor to provide thirty (30) days written notice to the other Party.
- 3. This MOU may be modified in writing by the Participants' mutual consent. Such written modifications should be attached as annexes to this MOU and should be considered parts thereof.

#### **VIII. RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES**

Any question that arises in connection with the application or interpretation of this MOU should be resolved by discussion between the Participants.

Signed at Washington, in duplicate.

For the Department of Energy of the United States of America:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Honorable LaDoris G. Harris, Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity

Date: 8/20/2015

For the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, stylized 'N' and a long horizontal stroke.

Ambassador Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General

Date: 8/20/2015