



The Barbados Light & Power Company Ltd.

Vol. 20 | Dec 2020

# Watts New Business

A quarterly newsletter for business customers of The Barbados Light & Power Company Ltd.



## WHAT'S NEW: LAMBERTS WIND FARM PROJECT PROGRESSES



The site of the proposed Lamberts East Wind Farm, St. Lucy.

### LIGHT & POWER TALKS WITH RESIDENTS

**On October 22nd, a virtual town hall meeting was hosted, so that residents of Lamberts, St. Lucy could pose their questions directly to Light & Power management.**

Managing Director Roger Blackman had this to say to those gathered in the virtual meeting room:

*"We know that some of you have expressed concerns about having a wind farm in your midst. We heard you, and we have undertaken studies that look at sound impacts and how these and other concerns raised can be mitigated.*

*For instance, sound monitoring equipment was put in place in March 2016 to record baseline data at Date Tree Hill, Cave Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church and Peterses Road.*

*Like you, we are customers, too. We form part of the communities across Barbados. We have taken all of*

*your feedback into consideration, and we will continue to seek and consider your feedback as we are doing at this meeting today, so that our plan for a cleaner energy future evolves and progresses to success.*

*I want to assure all Barbadians - and specifically residents of St. Lucy - that Light & Power is committed to minimizing and responsibly managing its environmental footprint. Over the years, we have demonstrated this through implementation of eco-friendly policies aimed at preserving and minimising the impact on the environment. The LED streetlight replacement project is known, and visible, to all Barbadians; our work with the Barbados Sea Turtle project and creating the best environment through lighting for sea turtle development in Barbados, is ongoing.*

*You have often heard us talk about safety as our first priority - and it is. Every job, every day. Light & Power cares about the safety, health and wellness of the people who live and work within our communities.*

*I want to assure the residents of St. Lucy that we have made every effort to ensure our operations - whether we are talking about the solar farm, the new Clean Energy*

*Bridge or the Lamberts wind project, as examples - will consider the health and safety of all people first, and will be in compliance with the highest environmental standards at all times"*

### PROJECT SUMMARY

The Lamberts East Wind Farm is a proposed wind farm in the parish of St. Lucy, Barbados and supports the goal of the Barbados National Energy Policy of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2030.

The Lamberts East Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment (the EIA) was completed in 2007 and updated in 2010 to meet the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines and Procedures for Barbados (1998). The EIA, approved in December 2010, included eleven (11) Wind Energy Converters (turbines), a control building, access roads and transmission infrastructure. However, since 2010, technology has improved and resulted in quieter, safer and more efficient turbines. The turbines originally planned for the project are also no longer commercially available. As a result, a revised project layout has been developed, consisting of five (5) turbines.



# HISTORIC MOVE ADVANCES CEB PROJECT

**The Clean Energy Bridge project moved a step further in October with the completion of a historic move.**

To transport the engines for the project from the Bridgetown Port to the Trents site, a temporary road was constructed, along Light & Power land from Maycocks Beach to Trents, St. Lucy. The engines were transported from the Port to Maycocks Beach by barge.

**TOP:** The first of the engines after it was delivered by barge to Maycocks Beach.  
**BOTTOM:** The engine leaving the beach on the heavy load trailer.

On October 4th, the 1st of four engines landed at Maycocks Beach and over the course of a few weeks, all the engines were transported to site. The equipment, accompanied by Light & Power vehicles, travelled from Fryers Well, along the Charles Duncan O’Neil Highway, through Checker Hall and then turned left onto the project site. This historic move was yet another milestone in the plan to efficiently meet customers’ needs.



## CLEAN ENERGY BRIDGE TO MEET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Managing Director of Light & Power, Roger Blackman

**The Barbados Light & Power Company conceived its Clean Energy Bridge (CEB) project at Trents, St. Lucy, as an interim or bridging solution to maintain a reliable supply of electricity to the national grid, while Barbados transitions to 100% renewable energy over the next few years.**

The CEB is a 33 MW medium speed diesel plant, which will immediately boost grid resilience, allowing the company to focus on delivering renewable generating technologies. In the medium to long term, it will be one of the options the company utilises to provide backup to renewable energy generation during power fluctuations or periods of low power output.

**Watts New Business** introduced the CEB in its last issue. Now Managing Director of Light & Power, Roger Blackman, is giving a further update on the CEB project.

“It is efficient by design and will significantly contribute to fuel savings for customers in the near term and over the life of the plant. This, in turn, will reduce the country’s foreign exchange outlay.

“The plant also has the capability to be converted to run on Natural Gas, which is a cleaner fuel, should this become economically feasible and available in Barbados.”

Additionally, said Blackman, “The CEB is required to meet strict standards for noise and emissions. It is also being constructed to meet stringent international standards for impact on air quality.”

The project will be completed and fully commissioned by February 2021.

Blackman described Light & Power as an environmentally-conscious company which, over the years, has demonstrated this through the implementation of eco-friendly policies aimed at preserving and minimising the impact on the environment. He said that by extension, the company equally cared about the comfort, health and wellness of the people who lived within our communities.

He explained, “We have been conscientious in our planning to ensure that the plant will operate in a safe manner, compliant with the highest environmental standards at all times.

“We are committed to our business of safely providing energy and energy services that are cost effective and reliable for our customers”

CEB FEATURES AT A GLANCE	
Noise reduction features	Include specially designed insulating panels on the buildings for the power plant and ultra-low noise radiator fan.
Emissions will be reduced	A lower ash, lower sulphur fuel will be used. The environmental impact assessment (EIA) includes a dispersion model, which assesses the impact of the plant on air quality in the surrounding environs utilising years of wind data.v
Environmental monitoring programmes	These will be implemented to the approval of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).
Low water consumption by plant	The plant will utilise air-cooled radiators in a closed loop system. There is also 27 000 gallons of rainwater storage onsite.





LEFT: Managing Director, Roger Blackman, presenting BARP President Marilyn Rice-Bowen, with a cheque to assist vulnerable BARP members. RIGHT: Representatives from Crime Stoppers Barbados, PAREDOS, Keratoconus Barbados and the TVET Council, recently became partners with Light and Power.

## LIGHT & POWER SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

**The Barbados Light & Power Company, like many other Companies, makes social responsibility and “giving back” to local communities a priority. These community groups and organizations depend on this support to accomplish activities and to deliver on their promises to members and the community residents alike. It is the natural cycle of working together, companies and communities, to build a better, stronger Barbados.**

Manager Communications and Government Relations, Jackie Marshall-Clarke in emphasising this, said, “For us, building stronger communities is about social responsibility, and Light & Power takes this aspect of its business very seriously. Every year, our company commits significant resources, through funding and through our people, to help us meet this obligation. As expected, it is always done in a very structured manner to ensure the best use of the resources. Collaboration and partnerships are also key to us as we work with, and watch organisations and their people achieve goals. Indeed, we are always happy to support the communities that we serve with electricity every day.”

To this end, Light & Power joined forces with the Barbados Association of Retired Persons (BARP), on the International Day of Older Persons which was celebrated on October 1st, 2020 and assistance was offered to BARP for their vulnerable members.

Additionally, four new organisations recently became partners with the Company and confirmed their arrangement of working together for the next two years. They are Crime

Stoppers Barbados, PAREDOS, Keratoconus Barbados and the TVET Council. While Light & Power will support their activities and outreach programmes, the organisations will provide the Company with educational programmes for employees, or any such benefits during the period.

Programme Director of Crime Stoppers Barbados, Sherie Holder-Olutayo, explained the objectives of the organisation and its efforts to make Barbados a safe place to live. “In addition to anonymous tips to assist with criminal activity, we also facilitate school programmes, one of which is anger management and conflict resolution for secondary school students. The ‘Kool Yuh Head’ programme has now been presented in 18 of the island’s 21 secondary schools and has helped over 25 000 students. We are pleased to partner with Light & Power to further enhance this programme. Working in the schools where a lot of behaviours are embedded, we are hoping to stop a trend of deviant behaviour.”

Marshall-Clarke endorsed the efforts of Crime Stoppers Barbados, reiterating that the Company is looking forward to working with them, as with others. “Safety, Health and wellbeing are critical in the lives of all Light & Power employees and for every Barbadian,” she said. “We will continue to lend support to these specific areas, as well as others, hoping that it will make a difference in the livelihood of our people and in our communities. We are already deeply invested and this will not change in coming years. We will commit to creating even more supportive environments and being a good corporate citizen at all times, for the betterment of Barbados!”





## NEW CUSTOMER INITIATIVES IN THE WORKS

Director, Customer Solutions, Kim Griffith-Tang How.

### There are new initiatives in the works to benefit customers

“We have been working closely with CARICOM and its partner, the German agency GIZ, to develop the Integrated Utility Service (IUS) Model Project.”

The IUS project consists of two new opt-in customer initiatives:

- The first is where Light & Power customers are offered upfront financing for energy efficiency (EE), renewable energy (RE) and other customer driven initiatives. This initiative is meant to help support and facilitate customers, who are desirous of installing EE/RE equipment and devices at their homes and businesses; or if customers had a need to replace their meter socket base unit at their premises, but were unable to do so because they could not afford the upfront costs.
- The second initiative is where surge protection services are offered and Uninterruptible Power Supply or UPS equipment and other secondary protection devices and equipment. The surge protection offering is designed for enhanced protection of customer-owned devices against power fluctuation on the grid that is typically beyond the utility's control and the UPS devices are expected to enhance reliability of Light & Power's service.

Griffith-Tang How advised, “We will be asking our regulator, the Fair Trading Commission, for permission to commence a (12-month) pilot. The pilot will be on a first come, first serve basis and under the pilot programme. Light & Power will initially facilitate upfront financing on five different energy improvement technologies, which are LED lighting; Solar PV Systems; Energy Efficient Air Conditioner Units; Meter Socket Base units; and Uninterruptible Power Supply Devices.

“As is customary with our pilot programmes, Light & Power will track and regularly report project data to the FTC for the purpose of evaluating the success of the pilot in meeting the project objectives.”

### How it would work?

Interested customers would first identify the type of equipment they want to install at their homes or businesses based on their needs. They will also need to identify reputable equipment vendors/suppliers and installers to provide the equipment and to perform the installation. Customers would then apply to Light & Power for financing to pay for the equipment and any installation costs. Customers would then repay those costs, with affordable interest rates, via their monthly electricity bill.

### Project commencement

The Director, Customer Solutions, outlined Light & Power's plan to “submit our Application to the FTC by early October and, because we are seeking permission to commence just a pilot, we hope that before year's end, we would have received approval from the FTC to commence the pilot and so that would facilitate a launch of our programme in the first quarter of 2021.”

The project will meet several objectives:

- It will help solve the current obstacle posed where some customers have indicated that they have inadequate access to affordable EE/RE project financing;
- Customer energy costs could be lowered and enable utility reduction of electricity system costs
- It will advance the achievement of national EE/RE objectives and transition to a clean energy economy
- Incentives will be created for customers and utilities to invest in EE and RE projects.

Griffith-Tang How asked renewable energy customers to note that effective immediately, they can benefit from the opportunity to designate an account to receive their RE system credits.

“This was the request of some customers and we are pleased to facilitate it. Simply send your request in writing and provide the necessary account detail where the money should be paid.”

