



RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS STILL ON TRACK!

Managing Director of The Barbados Light & Power Co. Ltd, Roger Blackman.

In spite of the disruption experienced in Barbados due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, Managing Director, Roger Blackman, is assuring the business community that The Barbados Light & Power Company's plans to transition to large-scale renewable energy are still on track.

"We continue to press ahead in support of the Government's vision to be 100% renewable by 2030," Blackman stated.

"Work on the Clean Energy Bridge (CEB) project has resumed at our Trents, St. Lucy site, where we already have 10 megawatts of solar and 5 megawatts of battery storage. Through the CEB, we will be adding a further 33 megawatts of capacity. Perhaps you may be wondering what the "Clean Energy Bridge" is. In short, it is a new high-efficiency fossil fuel plant, which will 'bridge the gap' for us at Light & Power between our retiring plant and the required renewable energy build-out, to ensure that our island still has a safe and reliable power supply in the midst of the transition."

The Managing Director also described the bridging plant, as being a "highly efficient new station, which will save on fuel costs."

"Plans for our 10 megawatt wind farm at Lamberts, as well as a second utility-scale solar plant at Lower

Estate, St. Michael are advancing rapidly. At the Lambert's site, preparatory work has commenced to facilitate this 5 wind turbine project. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the wind project is being finalized, after which it will be shared with the public. Residents and interested persons can look out for information regarding a public Town Hall Meeting and an Open Day for dialogue in the coming weeks."

Blackman added, "The Tesla battery storage, also at Trents, is performing well and delivering back-up power when needed. This is an important part of the clean energy solution going forward: the island will need a significant amount of battery storage, as solar installation increases, to provide backup when the sun is not shining."

In addition to these major projects, the ongoing relationship with Independent Power Producers (IPP) is progressing well.

According to Light & Power's Managing Director, "We continue to work closely with independent renewable energy owners and continue to build out systems under the existing Feed-In Tariff (F.I.T) programme. In fact, to date, our customers now have over 35 megawatts of solar generation connected to the grid, which when combined with Light & Power's 10 megawatts of solar at Trents, St. Lucy, represents approximately 25-percent of the island's peak demand on a sunny day."

Describing the progress made with renewable energy as significant, Blackman said, "Additionally, we are in discussion with a number of potential Independent Power Producers working on bringing additional renewable energy to the grid, most of which is solar based."

"The achievement of 100-percent renewable energy is ambitious but achievable, if we all work together to make it happen. As a utility, we have a vision and a strategy for the future, and we are committed to working with all stakeholders to achieve this national energy policy goal."

LIGHT & POWER HIGHLIGHTS

1. Light & Power is fully engaged in preparing its business for the changing energy market, the increase in self-generation, as well as new policy and legislation.
2. Light & Power's major investments in renewables and 'clean energy' solutions, will move Barbados toward realising its goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030, and this fully aligns with the Government's vision for the country.
3. Light & Power is advocating for 'fuel hedging', to help stabilise the cost of electricity to its customers, especially the commercial customers, while the country transitions. Efforts like this, along with its cost management strategy, are in the interest of customers.
4. Light & Power has been 'future thinking' and proactively planning. Looking back, the Company has certainly demonstrated leadership in the sector over the last decade:
 - Windfarm data testing since 2005
 - Design & implementation of the Renewable Energy Rider pilot projects since March 2010, and a permanent Interruptible Service Rider since 2018
 - Grid Modernization through the AMI project which commenced in 2015, and by the end of 2020, all 128 000 customers in Barbados will have new advanced metering facilities
5. Light & Power is a strong, well run utility committed to customer service and committed to the swift transition to renewable energy. We will continue to do our business, and to assure customers and Barbados that 'They can count on us'.





LIGHT & POWER FULLY SUPPORTS AN ELECTRIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM



Electric buses have been added to the fleet of the Barbados Transport Board!

Have you noticed the brand new Barbados Transport Board buses travelling along our roads this month? Well these are electric buses and here is the story of Light & Power's involvement in this national project.

Light & Power's Systems Engineer, Antonio Sealy, who is a key member of the Electric bus project team shared, "The Barbados Light & Power Company has supported the Barbados Transport Board and the Government of Barbados with this electric bus project from its inception. When Light & Power launched its 100 / 100 vision a few years ago, we said that it was an aspirational goal for 100% transition to renewable energy, along with 100% electrification of the economy, with an initial focus on the transportation and tourism sectors. For this vision to succeed, we knew that it had to include strategic partnerships and collaboration."

Sealy explained that the handover of the electric buses, which occurred in July, was therefore "as significant a day for Light & Power as it was for the Transport Board."

He stated, "Our involvement in this project, and the arrival of the electric buses, is the manifestation of an ongoing partnership, which we value greatly. We are happy to be a part of the first and biggest electric bus project for public transit in the Caribbean."

Light & Power is continually exploring, taking advantage of new technologies and finding better ways to work in the interest of Barbadians and customers.

Sealy said: "We believe that we ought to meet the challenge of energy change, together, with the Government and all stakeholders to find the right energy solutions for Barbados."

The CLEAN ENERGY BRIDGE Project is a part of the solution

Customers can look forward to greater efficiency when the Light & Power's Clean Energy Bridge is completed.

Word of this has come from Generation Engineer Dave Skeete, who is also the Project Manager for the Clean Energy Bridge (CEB) project.

In an interview for Watts New Radio, aired monthly on radio stations, Skeete outlined the project.

"The Clean Energy Bridge is required to purposefully position Light & Power for its articulated 100/100 vision. That vision speaks to 100 percent renewable energy and 100 percent electrification by the year 2030. To get to that point, the

company has to transition from mainly fossil fuels energy production and this can't happen overnight. Currently, we have a mix of generation plants, some of which have exceeded their life span. This is certainly the case with the steam units, which were commissioned in 1976.

"To facilitate this transition and to maintain the levels of reliability Barbados is accustomed to, it is important that we replace these aging units, as the efficiency of these older units have declined. Here enters the Clean Energy Bridge, which will form that needed 'stop gap' between old generating units and renewable energy production.

"The CEB engines will be more efficient than the ones being replaced, and we expect that the fuel savings will be



The Clean Energy Bridge (CEB) project will result in fewer outages. Here is one of the Wärtsilä engines which will be housed in one of the four modular blocks in the CEB.

passed to the customer. This newer, more reliable plant will positively impact the level of service we provide to the customers."

The Bridge will comprise four modular blocks, which will house Wärtsilä engines. The Wärtsilä engine, known for being efficient and for its overall

emissions performance, weighs 83 tons and special arrangements have been made to transport these to site." The fabrication of the tanks for the tank farm is in progress, along with other electrical work on site. Light & Power anticipates that this plant will be commissioned by the end of 2020.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS 2020

Readiness is key to remaining safe and well during the 2020 hurricane season

“At Light & Power, we continually invest in reliability improvements throughout the year, storm-hardening our system to improve service to customers,” said Light & Power’s Director Operations, Johann Greaves. “Maintaining reliable electric service is even more important this year with the pandemic and its resulting remote work situation and required vigilance with cleanliness practices. As we do each storm season, we’ll monitor weather threats and, when

a storm is forecasted, we’ll engage our plan, which includes timely relevant communications via social media and radio.”

Light & Power has engaged with CARILEC, the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation, and its Emera Inc. affiliate utilities in the region, to ensure coordination and support in the event of a significant weather event.

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After a damaging storm, BLPC’s restoration process prioritizes safety above all else

“Once the emergency personnel technical all-clear is given by the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), we follow a detailed, tried and true process for restoring service to customers,” said Victor Callender, Senior Engineering Manager.

“First, we ensure that our generation stations, substations and transmission lines from our plants to substations are operational. We then restore power to emergency services such as police, fire, hospitals and to utilities, such as water and communications. Next, essential community services such as food stores are reenergized. Then, once all safety assessments have been completed, skilled crews are dispatched to residential areas to restore power. Generally, we restore

to areas that are densely populated first, ensuring we bring the most customers back online as quickly and safely as possible.”

“Before power can be restored safely, structures such as homes and businesses, must be inspected by a qualified electrician and any needed repairs made,” added Mr. Callender. “Sometimes there doesn’t appear to be any damage at a customer’s site, yet when their neighbour’s power is restored, they are still without power. In the case of those isolated outages, we ask customers to contact our Customer Service team at 626-4300 to report their outage, so that we can plan for crews to be dispatched to restore them.”

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You’ll hear from us and what to remember when you’re not hearing from us

“Sharing the details around our storm preparations provides key information to Customers, as well as a sense of comfort, that we are ready for whatever may come,” said Jackie Marshall-Clarke, Manager Communications and Government Relations. “We remind customers of the importance of their preparations as well, sharing reminders about keeping themselves, their family and home safe: before, during and after a significant weather event.

from us as you normally would,” continued Mrs. Marshall-Clarke. “That’s when we are focused on efficient restoration that follows a tried and true plan. Know that it’s in those moments and hours that we are putting safety first, preparing, as we await the all-clear that allows us to get out, to assess possible damage to our plants, poles and lines, and build a plan to restore service to customers.”

“But, due to storm impacts, there are times when you aren’t going to hear

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When faced with a significant storm event, safety is paramount

“Safety is, in all circumstances, our number one priority,” said Roger Beckles, Senior Engineering Manager. “No business need is more important than the safety of our employees, customers and the general public. As a responsible utility, we have a robust hurricane preparedness and response plan built on a foundation of unwavering commitment to safe work practices.”

“At Light & Power, we are prepared with a sufficient stock of materials, such as poles and wire, so that we can begin repairs as soon as it is safe to do so,” added Mr. Beckles. “This hurricane season, our supplies also include cleansers, disinfectants, masks and gloves, to ensure we safeguard our employees and customers from COVID-19.”

With the global pandemic COVID-19 and its impact on our day-to-day lives, measures such as social distancing and frequent sanitization, to help mitigate the spread of the virus, are important considerations to safe storm response.

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Our employees: The Light & Power team is ready for the 2020 hurricane season

“We know that our customers are depending on us to safely deliver power, even during the most challenging times,” said Gail-Ann King, Manager Human Resources. “We’re in the midst of another hurricane season and, despite the challenges of COVID-19 such as remote work and changing work hours, our team is here, as they always have been, to support our customers.”

As with our Customer Service representatives, Light & Power’s operations teams in both generation and transmission and distribution are prepared to respond to severe weather impacts. “We have had to make modifications to the way we

work to ensure we’re minimizing the risk of Coronavirus spread while, at the same time, preparing our operations for hurricane response,” said King. “However, we have all adapted to the new COVID-related safe work practices, and I know that we are as ready as we can be, to respond to storm-related impacts.”

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Customers are asked to stay abreast of Light & Power’s storm updates via its Facebook page at [@blpconline](#), and to contact its Emergency Service team to report outages, downed wires or poles, at **626-9000**.

The FUEL component of your electricity bill goes up and down as the price of fuel fluctuates. The FUEL CLAUSE ADJUSTMENT (FCA) appears on your electricity bill in the column headed:

Fuel Adj. (\$)

THE FUEL CLAUSE ADJUSTMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 IS 22.5850 CENTS PER KILOWATT HOUR

FUEL CLAUSE ADJUSTMENT APRIL 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2020

Month	Fuel Adj. (\$)
APRIL	24.1236
MAY	16.2176
JUNE	19.6281
JULY	22.5850
AUGUST	22.5850
SEPTEMBER	22.5850

The FCA mechanism used by Light & Power to recover the cost of fuel in the generation of electricity is similar to many electric utilities across the world.

More information at [www.blpc.com.bb](#)

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