The Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (GSEII) was launched in November 2000 by a consortium of international organizations, to assist the small islands states in their efforts to transform their energy base from fossil fuels to a system based on renewable and energy efficiency technologies.

The GSEII approach includes four components:

i) Identification of the participating small island state - based on requests from the SIDS and donor commitments,

ii) Development of a national sustainable energy plan - through a consultative process by a working group of stakeholders and partners,

iii) Implementation of the sustainable energy plan - by providing technical assistance and support through implementation partners,

iv) Capacity building and international outreach activities - including training activities and special events on international fora promoting the interests and raising support for SIDS.

GSEII’s mission strongly overlaps with the energy components of the BPOA and the Mauritius Strategy. Small islands states’ dependence on imported fuels for electricity production limits their ability to develop sustainably. Many of these SIDS have abundant renewable energy resources, which if exploited could totally transform their economies.

The Barbados Programme of Action was a road-map for environmental and development planning to be implemented by SIDS governments with assistance from the international community. It was an excellent document and plan, however, at Mauritius the findings indicated poor implementation on the part of SIDS due to lack of the support from the international community. Hence, a more ambitious and aggressive strategy for implementation was adopted at Mauritius. After 15 years of BPOA, it is now high time for the international community to scale-up the support for its implementation.

It was in November 2000 at the Hague Climate Conference when the St. Lucian Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony announced their intention and plans to become the first sustainable energy demonstration country. Today, the GSEII key partners including Climate Institute, the Organization of American States (OAS), Energy & Security Group and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have active programs in nine Small Islands Nations in the Caribbean and the Pacific that seek to develop and implement national sustainable energy plans, which will put these nations on a path of energy independence. In the next 3 years the GSEII plans to expand its work to 15 SIDS. The highlights of GSEII past and present activities are presented in the subsequent pages.

Energy dependence is the key cause of economic vulnerability of the SIDS. However, transformation of the SIDS energy base to renewables also presents the most viable path to achieving the economic stability that would enable the SIDS to cope with the challenges, such as Climate Change that they face today.
GSEII SPRING 2010

PAST AND CURRENT GSEII ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY

**GRENADA**

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
  Plan development was revised after Hurricane Ivan. A 20-year NEP is in the works accompanied by a short term Sustainable Energy Plan.

- **Earth Home and Sustainable Housing Project**
  Building model sustainable homes and training local builders in sustainable construction techniques.

- **Solar Hot Water Heating Financing Program**
  Developed financing program to make long-term cost saving solar water heaters available to low- and middle-income homes and business.

- **Solar PV demonstration project**
  1.8kW PV system on a school building

- **Rooftop Solar Hot Water System**

**SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS**

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**

- **Wind Energy Development**
  Studied potential sites for wind farms. Negotiations are underway for a 1.1 MW farm.

- **Biomass Energy Project**
  OAS and ESG conducted a study to examine the possibility of using sugarcane to produce electricity and/or ethanol.

- **Geothermal Energy Development**
  Conducted feasibility study and aided development negotiations. Drilling for a 10 MW station is expected to begin soon.

**TRAINING SESSIONS**

- GSEII has organized six annual training sessions on renewable energy and energy efficiency at the Pacific Power Association’s annual conferences in the Pacific.

- Three training sessions on renewable energy technologies and policies have been organized for the Caribbean energy officials and utilities professionals of CARILEC.

- Training sessions on solar water heaters finance were organized for the credit unions in St. Lucia & Grenada

**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

- Climate Institute has organized at least a dozen special events at international fora, such as the Climate Change Conferences, WSSD, Mauritius Meeting, and during the UN CSD sessions to showcase SIDS energy activities and to raise international support for them.

- In addition, SIDS energy activities have been showcased in numerous presentations at conferences and events.

- GSEII continues to publish magazine articles, newsletters, and promotes SIDS energy agenda through its web site

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plans**
  OAS is providing assistance in the formulation and implementation of energy policy and sustainable energy plans in Antigua & Barbuda, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and the Bahamas. These plans are at different stages of development and adoption. These activities are part of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) funded by the European Union.
SAINT LUCIA

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
  Developed a 10-year comprehensive Sustainable Energy Plan & Implementation Plan.

- **Hotel Industry Energy Audits and Training**
  Initiated energy efficiency training project for hotel representatives and conducted energy audits of five hotels. This was conducted by Marbeck Consultants & Lewis Engineering of Canada.

- **Energy Efficient Lighting Project**
  Distributed over 6,000 compact fluorescent bulbs with the support from Climate Care.

- **Energy Efficiency and Awareness Campaign**
  Initiated the continuously support organizing of annual Energy Awareness Week.

- **Solar Hot Water Heating Financing Program**
  Developed financing program to make long-term cost saving solar water heaters available to low and middle-income homes.

- **Wind Energy Development**
  Studied potential sites for wind farms. Facilitating negotiations between the stakeholders.

- **Geothermal Energy Development**
  UNIDO conducted a feasibility study of an 100 MW station and is currently working to eliminate barriers to its construction. GSEII advising the government on negotiations with the developers.

- **Solar Photovoltaic Demonstration Project**
  1.8kW PV system planned for a school.

DOMINICA

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
  Planning has gone through many revisions but appears to be moving towards adoption of National Energy Policy first and then the implementation of a Sustainable Energy Plan.

- **Efficiency Improvement in Electric Distribution System**
  UNIDO studied and recommended capital investments to the utility to make distribution more efficient.

- **Energy Efficient Lighting Project**
  Organized an energy efficient lighting project with an energy awareness component and free distribution of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

- **Geothermal Project Pre-feasibility Development**
  OAS feasibility study found geothermal potential. GSEII helped to secure EU funding and further feasibility studies and development of the project is in progress.

FIJI

- **Coconut Biofuel Development**
  Investigated potential for coconuts to serve as an energy source. Ran tests on a coconut methyl ester fuel additive.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
  Assisted in development of national renewable energy plan (ADMIRE).

- **Energy Efficient Lighting Project**
  Distributed over 10,000 compact fluorescent bulbs.
Energy Awareness Week (EAW) is an annual activity in Saint Lucia that seeks to promote energy consciousness and education at the national level. GSEII helped organize the first EAW and continues to support the Ministry of Planning in carrying out this annual event every subsequent year.

EAW 2009 was observed from November 23-28 under the theme “Combating Climate Change through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.” The activity is spearheaded by the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment. Collaborative partners include additional government ministries, the national utility, and various businesses and non-profit organizations and donors.

Like previous years, EAW 2009 included a wide range of events and media intended to engage citizens of all ages and backgrounds. A Student Symposium was held, which was attended by representatives from 25 schools around the island and exposed the students to the range of sustainable energy and energy efficiency options available to Saint Lucia. The students then analyzed the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the various options presented.

Local radio stations ran energy-themed quizzes and a video documentary aired on local television during EAW. The documentary featured interviews with local people involved in energy and highlighted ongoing energy initiatives.

With the theme “Innovative Designs for Energy Efficiency,” the Construction Symposium sought to increase the awareness of energy issues among persons involved in the construction industry and to impact the design and construction sector in order to produce more energy efficient buildings.

The Energy Exhibition provided a clearing house for the dissemination of energy related information to the public, as well as showcase locally available clean energy options. Representative from groups involved in the energy, renewable energy, and energy efficiency fields were given the opportunity to make their products and services and related information available to the public.