

Grenada solar energy research and development

Grenada Solar Research Institute for Technology Promotion and Transfer, innovation, scientific demonstrations, and Scientific research. Affiliates Independent International Research

Renewable energy has come a long way in the last twenty years, making it a more viable option for generating electricity to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Grenlec is 100% committed to exploring and developing more renewable energy resources in Grenada for the benefit of our nation and environment. The goal of our Renewable Energy Strategic Plan aligns with Grenada's National Energy Policy (2011) to secure 20% renewable energy generation by 2020.

We would like to outline some of the opportunities and challenges our nation faces in generating more electricity from renewable resources. As with any energy resource, there are pros and cons for renewable technologies. Some are proven technologies that Grenlec has deployed, like solar, while others are still in the exploratory, experimental or developmental stages and not feasible or economical for commercial application. We plan to work cooperatively with our Government to pursue the opportunities we do have for clean energy technologies in Grenada.

At the heart of the matter is finding a mix of proven traditional generation and renewable technologies to cost-effectively maintain our high standards for reliability and keep electricity prices down. In order to ensure that electricity is universally available 24/7, our present generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure needs to remain in place as additional intermittent (variable) renewable energy resources such as solar and wind are brought online.

While the Mt. St. Catherine region may have the potential for geothermal development, as indicated by Grenlec's preliminary studies and other follow-up work, more exploration is needed to confirm the viability of geothermal development in Grenada. Geothermal development will also need to be considered in the context of potential environmental impact, as well as the possible disruption to and opportunities for tourism.

With the increase of renewable energy system connections to the electrical grid, enhancements and upgrades to the grid are being made to maintain reliability. High penetrations of renewable energy can cause power quality issues and threaten reliability of service as seen in Hawaii and other island nations.

We believe that the technical issues can be overcome, but recommend that a cautious and balanced approach be taken in the development of renewable generation. For additional information, please visit

In transitioning to greater use of renewable energy resources, it is of paramount importance to avoid increasing energy prices or threatening the reliability and quality of the electric service Grenlec provides now.



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1. Renewable energy must be incorporated gradually using proven technologies on an unsubsidised basis to allow for the market to evolve in a balanced manner, otherwise electricity prices may well go up.

2. Because most renewable energy is an intermittent (variable) resource and highly dependent on weather conditions (solar and wind), sufficient base load capacity and reserves must be maintained to provide always-on reliability for all customers, including those customers who are using their own renewable energy systems.

3. Grenlec's Renewable Energy Strategic Plan incorporates a thoughtful, moderate, and prudent approach for increased renewable energy integration. Research and resources are being invested to launch new, large-scale renewable energy projects and make improvements to our current infrastructure that will accommodate greater interconnection to the grid, while keeping costs and reliability stable.

Again, it's important to restate that Grenlec is 100% committed to increasing our use of renewable energy to stabilise electricity prices and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We can overcome the challenges we face by working together with all stakeholders to implement solutions that will promote a greener economy.

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