



Theme Synopsis

With the COVID-19 global pandemic continuing to pose a mammoth challenge to the Caribbean region; the need for a sustainable energy transition has become more apparent and urgent than ever before. The pandemic has uprooted our lives and changed the way we work, socialise and consume energy. Although the full impact of the crisis is not yet conceivable and still has to be evaluated, significant changes in customer solvency and consumption profiles have already been observed.

One of the biggest challenges which energy suppliers in the Caribbean have endured throughout the pandemic is financial liquidity. With the shutdown of relevant sectors in the region, such as the tourist industry, customer solvency has gone down, new sales have decreased, access to capital is either slowed or reduced. As a result, utilities and energy service providers have found it difficult to maintain their energy infrastructures and to further expand the efforts for energy transition. Furthermore, the natural constraint of comparatively small energy markets in the Caribbean is limiting the options for energy utilities to invest into capital-intensive technologies, that could lead to reduced generation costs and more resilient energy systems in the long-term.

It is for these reasons and more that the implementation of effective and tailored measures and investments to ensure an affordable, resilient, and clean energy supply in the region are of utmost urgency.

Nonetheless, solutions and alternatives do exist.

The region possesses a large, unlocked potential of renewable energy sources. Customers could effectively save money by reducing their electricity consumption through well-designed and profitable energy efficiency measures. Energy management, flexible generation and smart orchestration of demand and supply can all contribute simultaneously to further increasing the decarbonisation and the overall efficiency of local energy systems.

On the global front in recent years, engineers, entrepreneurs, and politicians have developed a multitude of innovative technologies, smart business concepts and effective policy measures which permit the reduction of energy costs on a long-term basis while at the same time bringing long-lasting environmental and socioeconomic benefits to societies. Additionally, national, and regional sector policies have outlined the pathway for sustainable energy transition in the Caribbean. The remaining challenge on the ground consists now of finding and designing tailored solutions for practical implementation of theoretical examples and recommended approaches. The aftermath of the pandemic crisis compels us to reassess long-standing assumptions, perceived barriers, and default decisions in an effort to seize this opportunity and to accelerate the progress for energy transition. Engineers, financial managers and decision-makers of utilities, technology service providers, and governmental institutions are called upon to jointly reformulate the future of their energy systems.

Technical planning, the design of new and resilient energy infrastructure, and the related procurement of services and equipment will become increasingly complex, requiring more holistic approaches and inclusive perspectives. Design, procurement, and operation of energy infrastructure must not only aim for cost-efficiency but should also include environmental and social implementation criteria. The strengthening of strategic alliances and cooperation among sector and non-sector stakeholders, acceleration of the digitisation of processes and the active participation of citizens and customers in energy transition. These key success factors will significantly contribute to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, and sustainably reshape our energy landscapes.

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All interested persons are invited to submit abstracts of approximately 100 words with titles, for preliminary consideration, as presentations for CARILEC 2021 Engineering & Procurement Conference & Exhibition and Articles for the [CARILEC CE Industry Journal](#).

Presentation Topics

Topics of interest to the CARILEC Conference audience must incorporate the theme of the conference and focus on sub-topics listed below:

Panel Discussion – Reformulate the Energy Future: Rethink. Refocus. Reshape.

Key Topics (with a focus on best practices, lessons learnt and successful models for replication in the region)

- **Resilient energy infrastructure** - How to increase the flexibility and physical resilience of Caribbean energy systems through grid renewal and additional infrastructure?
- **Balancing of electricity demand and supply in the future** – Suitable processes and technologies (hard- and software) for realistic forecasting and effective grid management
- **Fuel supply** – Alternative procurement models for flexible and cost-efficient purchase of fuels within the ongoing energy transition
- **Cost-efficient increase of RE based electricity generation** – Key factors for successful procurement of new RE capacities through auctions
- **Any other presentations that are synergistic to the event theme.**

Utility Case Studies: Presentations on experiences and practices which are relevant to the Region and the Conference theme.

Presenters Guidelines

1. All completed Abstract Submissions Forms must be submitted by **May 28th, 2021**.
2. Selected presenters will be informed by **June 7th, 2021**.
3. Subsequent to notification, a full presentation must be submitted based on the selection committee's allotted time for your presentation:
Option 1 - Power Point slides, for an approximate 35–60-minute presentation/ working session (inclusive of 15 minutes Q & A)

Option 2 - Power Point slides, for an approximate 20 - 35 minutes presentation (inclusive of 5 - 10 minutes Q & A)

Option 3 - Power Point slides, for an approximate 15–20-minute presentation (inclusive of 5 minutes Q & A)

* A Written Article (Optional) to be considered for publication in the CARILEC's CE Industry Journal. For more information on the Journal email caribbeanelectric@carilec.org

Please send all Submissions to: Marketing and Member Services Department, at events@carilec.org (Early Submissions are highly encouraged). Receipt of your submission will be acknowledged within two-days.

General: Presentations at CARILEC Conferences are selected by a selection committee. The number of presentations accepted for a conference depends on program size (the number of sessions), technical coverage (the topics to be covered), focused on the subtopics and the number and quality of presentations. The selection committee identifies the best contributions for the agenda.

Awards

Presenters will:

1. Have an opportunity to be published in [CARILEC CE Industry Journal](#).
2. Have their bio, photo and company name published on the CARILEC website and in the Event App.
3. Present to over 20 Caribbean Regional Utility CEOs and Engineers and audience of over 200 delegates

Criteria for Selection: Your abstract should demonstrate clearly that your presentation:

1. Will focus on the specified theme and general topics;
2. Will be of interest particularly to the target audience of the conference;
3. Will present information that is theoretically sound and accurate;
4. Will present new knowledge or experience, the substance of which has not been previously presented at a CARILEC conference (unless otherwise advised);
5. Will not be commercial in nature and will not promote specific companies, products, or services.

Full Disclosure: Third Party Compensation

All instructors and presenters are required to disclose proprietary interest in any product, instrument, device, service, or material discussed in the experience, event, or program, as well as the source of any compensation related to the presentation.

[CLICK TO ACCESS ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH FORM](#)

*Only signed forms will be accepted.