

Energy Policy Web Commentary

THE PUBLIC SAYS... A LOOK AT SOME OF THE PERCEPTIONS AND VIEWS OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE ENERGY CONSULTATIONS

The Ministry of Energy, Mining and Telecommunications is currently conducting public consultations for the “Green Paper: Jamaica Energy Policy 2006 – 2020” . The main aim of the consultations is to sensitize the public about the existence of a proposed Energy Policy.

The public consultations further seek to garner feedback and suggestions from stakeholders in the energy sector.

As a part of the island wide consultations, the Ministry team has so far visited

- Morant Bay, St. Thomas
- Portmore, St. Catherine
- Kingston and St. Andrew
- Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville
- University of the West Indies
- Golf View Hotel in Mandeville
- Savanna-la-mar

Some of the comments received from participants are listed below:

- **Successive Governments have lacked the political will to ensure that a sustainable energy policy is maintained.**
- **Not enough is being done to operationalise the abundance of local alternative energy sources. Specific references have been made to the following;**
 - E10 roll out (ethanol in gasoline)
 - Solar and photovoltaic equipment and technology; water heaters, house lighting, street lights
 - Biogas facilities
 - Nuclear energy technology
 - Converting solid wastes and effluents (garbage and sewage) into viable energy sources
- **The cost of energy is a crippling factor to growth and development.**

Participants in the Consultations have been making their suggestions for the efficient use of energy in Jamaica. Outlined below are some suggestions from participants:

- **Targets for implementation should be explicit and maintained in order to meet aims, objectives and recommended ‘policy prescriptions.**
- **The Government should provide incentives to persons who utilize alternate sources of energy (tax exemptions, duty concessions, etc).**
- **The Government should mandate appropriate building codes for developers and architects to create and utilize energy efficient building designs.**