

# Introducing *CariGreen*

## – a research hub on Caribbean clean energy

Among the many active projects on NGC's green agenda, education and knowledge-sharing initiatives are some of the most critical to achieving global climate and energy goals. The Company believes that connecting people with information is half the battle won, as it equips them with tools needed to take action.

This is the philosophy that underpins the Company's latest knowledge-sharing initiative. In June 2021, NGC and its subsidiaries launched a digital information hub called *CariGreen*, which aims to bring learning resources about Caribbean energy into one platform.

### PROJECT GENESIS

Many people would remember library research as a painstaking process — wandering through shelves to find just the right books, sorting through different viewpoints to find the most relevant, combing through page after page for that one elusive piece of data.

In the digital age, despite increased accessibility and navigability of learning resources, the process of research can be just as daunting. In fact, it can be even more overwhelming due to the incredible volume of information available online, the dubious credibility of some sources, and the pace at which content is generated.

Someone entering research on clean energy in the Caribbean would find no shortage of information, but piecing together a comprehensive story of the region's plans and progress would require some effort. Valuable data and insights are tucked away inside articles, journals, research papers, news stories, blogs and statistical databases. In many instances, the most instructive information is hidden behind paywalls, for subscribers' eyes only.

Easy access to credible and updated information is critical to academic and market research. The answers to the questions that researchers might have, can drive innovation and investment in the regional clean energy space. For example, these questions can include: Where is there utility and policy infrastructure to support connection of solar energy to the grid? Which agencies offer funding for new projects? Which renewable technologies show the most promise in the regional context?

In the course of its own research for commercial opportunities in the region, NGC recognised the challenges that would face potential innovators and investors who were trying to extract useful information from so many fractured sources. The Company and its subsidiaries therefore decided it would benefit the green agenda to create a single platform to act as a repository for trustworthy and up-to-date information on Caribbean energy. This was the genesis of *CariGreen*.



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The ultimate goal of *CariGreen* is to deliver on its conceptual vision of raising awareness and understanding around regional clean energy, by connecting people with information.

As the site evolves and as more data comes to hand (eg. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions statistics), content categories will be expanded. Engagement with stakeholders will also inform content — the repository should meet the needs and demands of researchers, investors, and even the average citizen with an interest in learning more about clean energy.

### PROJECT OUTCOMES

This platform will streamline the process of conducting research into Caribbean energy. It will save time and take the burden of source verification off researchers. To the extent that research informs investment decisions and project development, this hub should help expedite both.

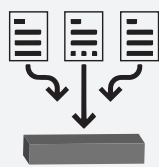
From an NGC standpoint, it is envisioned that management and curation of information for this platform will help develop in-house competency and institutional knowledge across the gamut of clean energy topics. Refinement of expertise will reinforce the reputation of NGC and its subsidiaries as leaders in the regional clean energy space. It will also build the brand's and country's positioning as a sustainable energy powerhouse and potential supplier of related services.

From another angle, this research hub will allow the Company to cultivate and strengthen relationships with key regional stakeholders, which can in turn open opportunities for collaboration on other projects, including regionally-significant commercial undertakings.

Of course, one of the ultimate goals of *CariGreen* is to deliver on its conceptual vision of raising awareness and understanding around regional clean energy by connecting people and businesses with information. Having more informed investors, citizens and stakeholders will be a most important outcome, as it will bolster efforts to build regional sustainability.

### SITE OVERVIEW

Through *CariGreen*, NGC and its subsidiaries aim to:



**Provide** a platform that will bring together datasets, information products, economic data and climate change strategies from different sources into one central location to provide users with complete, timely and trusted information



**Drive** engagement, collaboration and conversation with stakeholders, through integration of social media tools and development of energy reports



**Build** the necessary relationships within the Caribbean and with international energy information organisations, to sensitise and inform citizens on matters related to green energy.

The content on the site is drawn from a variety of authoritative sources or Hub Partners. These include, but are not limited to:

- UN ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean
- CCREEE: Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
- IDB: Inter-American Development Bank
- Ministry of Planning
- IMA: Institute of Marine Affairs

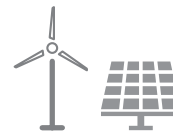
The site's management team, which comprises representatives from NGC and its member companies, will be responsible for curating content from Hub Partner publications and databases, to be shared on the *CariGreen* platform through links. Internally-generated content such as articles and media around NGC Group green agenda initiatives will also be uploaded. The idea is to create a central portal or library through which anyone seeking information on Caribbean clean energy can simultaneously access multiple resources, without the page-hopping that would come with research across several disjointed sites.

Content is currently divided into these main categories:



**Project background and partner information**

**Energy transition topics:** renewable energy, energy efficiency, alternative fuels, carbon capture and sequestration



**Market information:** research reports, funding agencies/mechanisms

**Caribbean territories:** country-specific data from CARICOM and non-CARICOM members, around energy transition projects and strategies



The site can be accessed at [www.carigreen.ngc.co.tt](http://www.carigreen.ngc.co.tt) and feedback through the site's channels is welcomed.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF *Energy*