

BAS Proposals

Belize City,
March 11, 1999.

The Government of Belize (GOB) and the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), have embarked on preparatory work for the building of the second phase of a hydroelectric dam to generate energy. The Belize Audubon Society notes that the last analysis of options for the generation of electricity was conducted approximately 9 years ago. In addition to hydroelectric energy, these options include co-generation of electricity from sugar cane bagasse, citrus peel and others.

In keeping with its mission of promoting the sustainable use of natural resources for the development of our nation, and after research and consultations with key people in industry, the business sector and the environmental community, the Society proposes the following:

(1) The formulation of a long-term, comprehensive Energy Policy for Belize which will aim to reduce its dependence on the importation of fossil fuels and energy. This policy must take into consideration the proper and responsible use of the natural resources of Belize and weigh all the options available for generating power.

(2) The Government of Belize should conduct a vigorous and comprehensive review of all the options for generating energy from renewable sources.

(3) A complete Environmental Impact Assessment, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act of 1992, must be conducted for whatever option is deemed viable before the option is undertaken.

The Belize Audubon Society stands ready to collaborate with the public and private sector, and civil society in organizing a National Forum on renewable Energy Sources. We invite the general public to review our Working Document on the Renewable Energy Generation Options for Belize.

-Press Release-