

Caribbean Utility Rate Setting: Principles and Practice

July 13-15, 2026

Proposed Agenda

DAY 1

START	TOPIC	PRESENTER
7:30am	DEPART ACCRA HOTEL	
8:00am	Registration <i>Facilitated by Charmaine Griffith, Administrative Assistant, Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) and Aleia Payne, Project Assistant, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)</i>	-
9:00am	Introduction, logistics <i>Overview of workshop objectives, housekeeping, participant introductions, and schedule for the three days.</i>	Marsha Atherley-Ikechi, Executive Director (OOCUR)
9:15am	Welcome & Opening Remarks from OOCUR	
9:21am	Opening Remarks from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Carlos B. Echeverria Country Energy Expert (IDB)
9:26am	Opening Remarks from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	Debbie Lewis, Portfolio Manager (Ag) (CDB)
9:30am	The Ratemaking Process <i>Overview of the regulatory rate-setting cycle and stakeholder engagement process. Introduction to the principles underpinning utility rate design: revenue sufficiency, economic efficiency, equity, simplicity, and stability.</i>	Michael Clark, Vice President, Christensen Associates Energy Consulting (CAEC)
10:30am	B R E A K	
10:45am	Costing 1 – Embedded COS <i>Examination of embedded (or historical) cost-of-service methodology: how costs are allocated across customer classes and the regulatory rationale for the approach.</i>	Nicholas Crowley, Vice President, Christensen Associates Energy Consulting (CAEC)
12:00pm	L U N C H	
12:45pm	Costing 2 – Marginal costs <i>Analysis of long-run and short-run marginal cost concepts and their application in utility pricing. Comparison with embedded cost outcomes.</i>	Michael Clark, Vice President (CAEC)
2:00pm	B R E A K	
2:10pm	Costing 3 – Water <i>Application of cost-of-service principles to water and wastewater utilities, including treatment, distribution, and capital cost recovery considerations specific to Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).</i>	Nils Janson, Managing Director, Policy and Regulation K&M Advisors
3:10pm	Group project outline <i>Introduction of the group project exercise: participants form teams, receive utility datasets, begin applying Day 1 concepts to a simulated rate case.</i>	Michael Clark, Vice President (CAEC)

4:00pm	A D J O U R N	
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DAY 2

START	TOPIC	PRESENTER
8:00	Depart from Hotel (Breakfast at the Hotel)	
8:30	Introduction to Day 2 <i>Recap of Day 1 key takeaways. Overview of Day 2 objectives: beginning with cost of capital, then moving from cost allocation to rate structure design.</i>	Marsha Atherley-Ikechi, Executive Director (OOCUR)
8:35	Costing 4 – Cost of Capital <i>Review of regulatory approaches to determining the weighted average cost of capital (WACC): debt and equity components, risk assessment, and comparable earnings analysis in small regulated markets.</i>	Nicholas Crowley, Vice President (CAEC)
9:35	Rate Design 1 – Traditional and Time Varying Electric <i>Review of conventional electricity tariff structures including flat rates, block rates, demand charges, and customer charges. Regulatory trade-offs between simplicity and cost-reflectivity. Exploration of time-of-use rates.</i>	Michael Clark, Vice President (CAEC)
10:30	B R E A K	
10:45	Rate Design 2 – Dynamic & Niche Products <i>Discussion of dynamic pricing, such as critical peak pricing, and real-time pricing mechanisms. Implications for consumer behaviour, grid management, and metering infrastructure in small island systems. Tariff design for non-standard service categories including electric vehicle charging, distributed generation, net metering, and interruptible service options.</i>	Michael Clark, Vice President (CAEC)
12:00	L U N C H	
12:45	Rate Design 3 – Water rates <i>Tariff structures specific to water and wastewater services: inclining and declining block rates, seasonal pricing, connection charges, and affordability considerations for low-income households.</i>	K&M Advisors
2:00	B R E A K	
2:10	Group project – Rate design development <i>Teams apply Day 2 rate design concepts to their assigned utility dataset. Facilitators circulate to provide guidance. Preliminary rate proposals to be ready for Day 3 presentations.</i>	CAEC
3:00	A D J O U R N	

DAY 3

START	TOPIC	PRESENTER
8:00	Depart from Hotel (Breakfast at the Hotel)	
8:30	Introduction to Day 3 <i>Recap of Days 1 and 2. Overview of Day 3 objectives: incentive regulation, water regulation, social equity in tariff design, and group presentations.</i>	Marsha Atherley-Ikechi, Executive Director (OOCUR)
8:35	Incentive Regulation <i>Overview of performance-based regulation frameworks including price caps, revenue caps, and performance incentive mechanisms. Case examples from Caribbean and international jurisdictions.</i>	Nicholas Crowley, Vice President (CAEC)
9:50	B R E A K	
10:00	Water Regulation <i>Regulatory governance frameworks for water and wastewater utilities in the Caribbean: licensing, service standards, performance monitoring, and the interface between economic regulation and environmental obligations.</i>	K&M Advisors
11:15	Group project – Rate design development <i>Teams apply Day 2 rate design concepts to their assigned utility dataset. Facilitators circulate to provide guidance. Preliminary rate proposals to be ready for Day 3 presentations.</i>	CAEC
12:00	L U N C H	
12:45	Tariffs and Equity: Protecting Vulnerable Consumers <i>Dedicated session examining the social and gender dimensions of tariff design. Topics include: the distributional impacts of cost-reflective pricing on low-income households; progressive and inclining block tariff structures as equity instruments; lifeline tariffs and targeted subsidies; gender-differentiated access and payment burdens; and regulatory mechanisms to balance financial sustainability with social protection objectives. Participants are invited to share country experiences and discuss practical design options.</i>	K&M Advisors
2:00	Group project presentations <i>Teams present their rate case analyses and tariff proposals. Peer and facilitator feedback on methodology, equity considerations, and regulatory defensibility.</i>	CAEC
2:50	Closing Remarks <i>Summary of key workshop learnings, next steps for participants, and closing remarks from OOCUR. Certificate of participation presentation.</i>	Marsha Atherley-Ikechi, Executive Director (OOCUR)
3:00	A D J O U R N	