

Young opens EV charging stations at Queen's Hall

Energy Minister Stuart Young says the official handover of electric vehicle charging stations and solar LED lighting at Queen's Hall in Port-of-Spain will serve as another means of energy efficiency in T&T.

Young, who is also Acting Prime Minister, made the comments at the event, which took place on Friday night.

In explaining what this meant on a larger scale, Young said, "What we are doing is trying to lead by example, so I am very proud of the LED lights and even happier about those that are completely solar-powered. Those small changes have a knock-on effect on our energy sector and also on Trinidad and Tobago.

"It helps Queen's Hall because when you look at any institution looking to compete globally, one of the things they need to look at now is energy efficiency," the minister explained, adding that this also falls into the category of sustainability.

He added that it also demonstrates that efforts to move towards renewables have a knock-on effect in terms of saving on electricity consumption.

"The domino effect would also help us to utilise the natural gas we would use normally to produce electricity," Young added. He said those molecules of gas can instead be sold. Young explained



Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Energy Industries Stuart Young, SC, middle, National Energy, assistant manager, Projects, Arden Rodriguez, left, and National Energy, chairman, Dr Joseph Khan at the opening of the EV charging stations at Queen's Hall on Friday.

PHOTO BY ANISTO ALVES

that those were those particular policies that he has been trying to push over the last few years.

"The more we can move off from using our natural gas for power generation is the more we can turn those molecules for revenue generation," Young reiterated.

Meanwhile, Joseph Ishmael Khan, chairman of NGC who also spoke, agreed that this was a significant step in the country's energy future, noting that three electric charging stations were officially handed over along with 11 LED and 29 LED solar-powered car park perimeter lights at Queen's Hall.

Garfield George, general manager of Queen's Hall, also expressed his gratitude, saying,

"This partnership has positioned Queen's Hall as an active participant in environmental commitment. We are proud to demonstrate how cultural institutions can embrace environmental responsibility."

The installations at Queen's Hall complement other projects led by National Energy, such as the EV charging stations at Preysal and the collaboration on solar-powered EV chargers at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine. Together, they stated, these initiatives underscore National Energy's commitment to advancing a low-carbon future for this country.



Minister in the Ministry of Works and Transport Senator Richie Sookhai speaks at Ganesh Utsav Celebrations, Felicity, last Thursday.
PHOTO BY SHASTRI BOODAN

Sookhai urges public to stop pollution

Pollution remains one of the major causes of flooding in T&T. This point was underscored by Minister in the Ministry of Works and Transport Richie Sookhai. He was addressing attendees on the fifth night of Ganesh Utsav celebrations at Cacandee Road, Felicity, on Thursday when he called on Hindus and the wider community to be mindful and do their part to prevent pollution and protect the Earth.

Sookhai said Hinduism teaches that the Earth is revered as Daarti Maata or Mother Earth. He said the Ministry of Works

and Transport has to undertake a tremendous amount of cleaning while at the same time dealing with excessive rainfall.

Sookhai told Guardian Media, "Pollution is one of the biggest factors affecting us right now, especially those drains that have been clogged with the plastics that have been going into our watercourses and also those that have been going to the ocean."

He said while the ministry has an active drainage programme, the public also needs to do their part in keeping waterways clean.

—Shastri Boodan

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