

Leading our people into the low-carbon future

Spurred on by the global climate crisis, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has been laying the strategic framework towards the achievement of a low-carbon future. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, 2017), "two-thirds of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions stem from the production and use of energy. This puts the energy sector at the core of the efforts to combat climate change."

Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the Paris Accord is to reduce cumulative GHG emissions by 15% by 2030, from the industrial, power generation and transport sectors when compared with 2013 levels. National Energy continues to support the Government's efforts in achieving this target through the:

- facilitation of strategic green/low-carbon projects
- integration of sustainable processes in our operations
- education and training of citizens in the area of energy sustainability

Retooling the workforce

At the recently held COP26 World Leaders Summit, Prime Minister The Honourable Dr Keith Rowley announced that a Just Transition of the Workforce Policy was developed for Trinidad and Tobago. The main objective of this policy is to minimise the impact on citizens as the country transitions to a decarbonised economy. The policy will guide the retooling and reskilling of the local workforce, creating opportunities for workers to participate in the new low-carbon economy.

National Energy also understands that the implementation of low-carbon projects can be a challenge without educated minds, skilled workers, and empowered communities. As such, the company has re-engineered its social investment initiatives to focus on closing the education and skills gap for its employees, communities, and other members of the public. In 2021, renewable energy training was provided to staff at National Energy, NGC CNG, and the Preysal Service Station, teaching them to operate the 100KW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Electric Vehicle (EV) systems installed by National Energy and NGC CNG at the station. As the country continues to incorporate Renewable Energy (RE) technologies in the national energy supply mix, such training prepares workers for an inclusive and meaningful role in the energy transition.

Reskilling our fenceline communities

In 2020, National Energy and Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in the areas of RE and EE. As such, CARIRI has been engaged to provide a series of training programmes in RE technologies and EE to members of National Energy's fenceline communities of Mayaro/Guayaguayare and La Brea. On behalf of National Energy, CARIRI and the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) have since trained a total of 32 fenceline residents in:

1. Installing solar PV systems



Solar PV Installation Training for residents of La Brea



Ms. Heeraman, Senior Teacher at Charleville Presbyterian Primary School with tablets presented by National Energy's Kiegan Bharat and Pennacool's Samantha Leotaud

2. Conducting Energy Efficiency Audits

Individuals completing the hybrid training programmes were provided with practical in-person demonstration in the installation of solar panels and the use of energy auditing tools, including NGC's Energy SmartTT Mobile application. The facilitation of these programmes are aligned to Theme 1 of the Ministry of Planning and Development's Vision 2030 Strategy ("Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset") which encourages the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation through education and training. As an industry leader, National Energy will continue to

play a key role in building capacity amongst the residents of its fenceline communities.

REnewable Minds – An interactive platform for primary school students

Education and awareness are recognised as two of the key influencers of behavioural change. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the provision of relevant and targeted information is essential in inspiring future generations to take responsible actions towards environmental protection that reverse the effects of climate change.

In October 2021, National Energy in part-



Jessica Gialdo, Arima West Government Primary School student, holds her Certificate of Diligence for outstanding work on the Renewable Minds Portal.

nership with Pennacool Caribbean Limited, launched the REnewable Minds portal for primary school students. The portal's main objective is to increase awareness of how companies within The NGC Group are reducing greenhouse emissions while encouraging children to learn about energy sustainability in areas such as:

- Alternative Fuels/Energy
- Energy Efficiency and
- Energy Conservation
- Renewable Energy

This digital platform includes interactive videos, games, and quizzes, and is reinforced by an attractive rewards and recognition programme. Since the launch of the portal, more than 2,000 students have attempted over 32,500 exercises. Although the content is not directly aligned to the local primary school curriculum, active engagement indicates the willingness of children to learn about Trinidad and Tobago's journey to "net zero" emissions. National Energy expects that the increased environmental consciousness among the younger generation can influence them to pursue career choices in the areas of Sustainable Energy Development.

As a key player in the local energy transition, National Energy is currently engaged in several strategic projects that will realise a decarbonised future. Increased use of RE technologies and awareness in EE are critical to achieving our targets in the Paris Agreement; as such National Energy remains committed to the education of youth in the areas of energy sustainability, and the retooling and upskilling of its staff and members of its fenceline communities in ways that foster a sense of climate urgency among the local population.

To learn more, visit: <https://sea.pennacool.com/pennacool/nationalenergy/>



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