



TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE: HOW THE RE-ENERGIZE TNT PROGRAMME IS IMPACTING THE NEXT GENERATION

Estimated read time:







Moruga Secondary students install LED lighting at Basse Terre RC for their green initiative

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Re-Energize TnT programme is an energy education initiative sponsored by NGC and Shell since 2021.

The programme has been making an impact among participants, as illustrated by student and teacher testimonials.

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) partnered with Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited (Shell) in 2021 to implement a three-year energy education initiative – Re-Energize TnT. From the very beginning, this innovative programme has been making a positive impact in the lives of secondary school students in communities across Trinidad and Tobago, as they learn about energy efficiency and renewable energy. The programme was substantially completed at the end of 2024. The Cohort 3 Green Initiative will be implemented in Q1 2025 in the community of Couva by the third-

year overall winners – Couva West Secondary.

Re-Energize TnT was delivered by RENEW TT, an organisation that has carried out energy education training programmes across the Caribbean. The following schools were selected to participate in the programme:

- **Cohort 1** – Mayaro Secondary and Woodbrook Secondary
- **Cohort 2** – Moruga Secondary and Ste. Madeleine Secondary
- **Cohort 3** – Couva West Secondary and Success Laventille Secondary

The initiative comprised taught curriculum on renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as practical

energy audits and community green initiatives. The content was certified by the Association of Business Executives (ABE) and included 15 training modules. Students who successfully completed all modules, meeting the attendance and performance requirements, received ABE certificates. Schools that won the Energy Star energy audit inter-school competition received a solar photovoltaic (PV) system that was installed at the school. The overall cohort winners, judged based on exams, participation and attendance, went into the Idea Incubator where they were guided through the ideation process to develop a green initiative to be implemented in the school's community.

RE-ENERGIZE TNT TRAINING MODULES

- The importance of energy
- Traditional (fossil fuels) and non-traditional fuels
- T&T's carbon footprint
- What is energy conservation and efficiency
- Conducting an energy audit
- The Paris Agreement and T&T's carbon reduction commitment
- Introduction to Renewable Energy
- Climate smart agriculture
- Introduction to solar energy
- Introduction to wind energy
- Introduction to biofuels
- The future of transportation: Electric Vehicles
- Advocacy and community mobilisation
- Presentation skills
- Stakeholder engagement



Idea Incubator in session.

| COHORT | ENERGY STAR WINNER | OVERALL WINNER | GREEN INITIATIVE |
|--------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | Mayaro Secondary | Mayaro Secondary | Installation of 9V solar PV system at Mayaro Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centre |
| 2 | Moruga Secondary | Moruga Secondary | Retrofitting of lighting fixtures with LED lighting at Basse Terre R.C. Primary School |
| 3 | Couva West Secondary | Couva West Secondary | To be implemented in Q1, 2025 |



Students of Mayaro Secondary School proudly display their ABE certificates



Moruga Secondary students proudly display their ABE certificates

As the Re-Energize TnT Programme draws to a close, GASCO News spoke with some of the participating students and the teachers that supported them throughout the programme to garner their views on the impact the programme has had on them, their schools and communities. Their responses are summarised below.

"I feel very proud as a student, to give back to the community. Winning the competition allowed us to install a solar PV system at the Mayaro ECCE School as our green initiative. That will provide a good opportunity for the students and the community to look at the solar panels and learn about solar energy."

Denise Primus – Mayaro Secondary

"The quality of this co-curricular programme was of a very high standard and bringing it to Mayaro Secondary meant a great deal to our students and school. The training that students received in renewable energy and energy efficiency made them more conscious about issues concerning the environment. Going on to win the Re-Energize

TnT competition was truly a proud moment for us, boosting the confidence of our students and the image of our school.

Additionally, having a solar PV system at our school is a tremendous opportunity for our students to witness first-hand the harnessing of solar energy. We would never have been able to afford this on our own and therefore, to win this system has been truly worthwhile.

We are using the solar PV system in our teaching, for example, the form one students are learning about the parts of the system and their function. We have also started incorporating it in school-based assessments (SBAs). Now that we have a STEM club, we plan on expanding on the various ways to harness solar energy and other renewable forms."

Renee Dial – Teacher, Mayaro Secondary

"This programme meant a lot to me because I chose it for my extra-curricular activity. One of the most important things I learned in the

programme was that this country is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and that we are trying to reduce our carbon footprint. This knowledge has opened my eyes to the variety of ways in which we can use natural resources such as wind and sunlight to produce heat and light. I shared my knowledge with my family and my parents are actually looking into going fully solar and saving towards this. Now at my home, we practice taking off lights when not in use, unplugging appliances and washing large loads to save energy. I have also started thinking about a career in renewable energy – maybe solar PV installation or renewable energy engineering."

Nickole Kolahal – Ste. Madeleine Secondary

"I didn't choose this programme at first, but I wanted something more challenging where I would learn new things, so it was meaningful for me once I got into it. The knowledge I gained in the Re-Energize TnT programme changed me. By seeing examples of people who have gone off grid, I think if they can do it, I can do it too. I think we as citizens need

to think about energy more seriously and not waste electricity because when we waste energy, it has a ripple effect on other households and companies."

Tyriq Williams – Ste. Madeleine Secondary

"The programme made me think about taking care of the environment and not wasting energy. I have started using more natural light, drying clothes in the sun and removing chargers from the wall when not in use. At home, we are switching to solar lights. The school is also changing as more students are showing an interest in solar power. One day when electricity had gone, the library was the only space with working lights because it is now powered by the solar PV system. That helped generate interest in the use of renewable energy in the school."

Alfredo Seuratan – Moruga Secondary

"The Re-Energize TnT Programme has helped to change my mindset regarding energy consumption. For example, I am sharing my knowledge with my cousins and we're doing what we can to conserve energy. I



Students take measures during energy audit

am interested in architecture for my future career and the knowledge I have gained in this programme will definitely be integrated into my future job."

Katherine Charran – Couva West Secondary

"I loved the programme. It should be implemented in primary schools or be added as a subject because this knowledge is a way to save the

future. I learned about the different forms of energy and how renewable energy will be used more widely in the future. At my home, we have changed out our lights to LEDs and are switching off pumps when not in use, reducing grocery bags and recycling plastics."

Alexander Giddings – Couva West Secondary

"I took over coordination of the programme a few months after it had started. However, in the short time, I noticed that the students became more outspoken and there was a vast improvement in their overall performance. Their awareness of developments in renewable and alternative energy in the real world also improved. The practical demonstrations such as the electric vehicle display was very impactful for the students. When the solar PV system is implemented, we look forward to using it as a teaching tool to continue the conversation about energy efficiency and renewable energy. I would recommend this programme to primary and secondary schools."

Rachel Samai – Teacher, Couva West Secondary



Students are guided on energy calculations