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BAHAMIAN EDUCATORS LEARN EFFECTIVE METHODS TO TEACH SUSTAINABLE ENERGY LESSONS

The **Ministry of Education, Science & Technology** and the **Organization of American States (OAS)** through its Department of Sustainable Development conducted a two-day teacher workshop in New Providence August 21-22, 2013. This workshop gave focus to the importance of teaching renewable energy, energy conservation, and the need for advocacy of cleaner and more sustainable energy development in The Bahamas. The fifteen attendees included teachers representing primary, junior and secondary schools on Abaco, Andros, Inagua and New Providence.

During the workshop, educators reviewed the science behind renewable energy, energy conservation as well as increase their capacity to effectively prepare student-centred lessons on these topics in the national science curricula. Teachers left the workshop not only having learned about current technologies and advances in science from experts in the field, but also with lessons, ideas and materials to use during hands-on instruction with students.

The workshop was led by KidWind instructor Keith Etheridge, who has taught thousands of teachers and students about wind energy and has facilitated teacher workshops on renewable energy and energy conservation sciences across the United States, as well as in the U.S. Virgin Islands. KidWind is an internationally recognized leader of clean energy education. Over the past seven years, KidWind has held hundreds of teacher workshops in more than 40 U.S. states, Canada, Europe, the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Technological developments and innovation, among other changes taking place in today's world, have a powerful and immediate influence on the nature and function of educators. As a result, educators take on new roles, like the ability to mediate between students and the world around them by introducing them to new subjects like alternative energy and energy conservation. By introducing this material in an interactive manner, students will better appreciate the science behind the projects and hopefully become interested in alternative energy.

The workshop, partially funded by the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) Caribbean Initiative, was implemented through the OAS's pilot program, the Caribbean Energy Education and Awareness Programme (CEEAP) under the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) and in close collaboration with the KidWind Project.

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