Caribbean Youth Climate Change Mitigation Project

Recognising that global climate change is unquestionably occurring and understanding the vulnerability of island states to the impacts that will arise from climate change, the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) has initiated an activity that will contribute towards assisting nations of the Caribbean to address the impacts of climate change.

The CYEN is aware of the importance for Caribbean states to achieve sustainable development and that the youth of the region have a critical role to play in this process as future leaders and decision makers.

With this in mind the CYEN embarked on the Caribbean Youth Climate Change Project. The objective of the project is to make the youth sector of the Caribbean aware of the impacts that climate change could have on the national development of Caribbean states.

General activities of the project cover sixteen territories of the Caribbean, inclusive of the Haiti and the Dominican Republic. These comprise (1) participative awareness activities, the flagships of which is the poster competition and (2) training of youth leaders in electrical energy auditing and small business management.

Pilot project activities are being conducted in Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia and include (1) national youth consultations on climate change, (2) illustrative research projects that retrofit houses in disadvantaged communities with energy saving lighting to show that domestic electrical consumption can be significantly decreased and by extension a decrease in carbon credits can be achieved, (3) the development of three small youth-led energy auditing business in the pilot territories and (4) advocacy activities.

The project commenced in February 2007 and is scheduled to conclude in December 2008. Contributors to the project include the GEF-UNDP-SGP, the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean, the Caribbean Policy Development Centre and the Environment Ministries of Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia.