

Alternative Energy Demonstration Project

When the **Sustainable Living Initiative Centre (SLIC)** was first established in 2005, its principal purpose was to educate Dominicans as to the value of a sustainable lifestyle and to offer practical training in specific practices designed to reduce climate change and pollution of the environment.

Since 2005 SLIC has conducted workshops and has successfully installed hydro, wind and solar energy generation equipment and adapted diesel engines to run on vegetable oil. We taught general organic vegetable farming and eco friendly living practices.

The Board of Directors had a hope of installing demonstration renewable energy units in schools around Dominica, believing that if we had models in the schools, everyone in the community would see renewable energy in action and have the opportunity to learn about it .

The UNDP - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided almost US\$ 50,000 in a grant to implement the **Alternative Energy Demonstration Project**

The Goal of the project was to educate the population regarding the potential of alternative energy installations in order to reduce the dependence on diesel power for electricity. Primary school children, parents and teachers and SLIC members in the environs of the Trois Piton World Heritage Site were introduced to the potentials of alternative energy power generation.

This was an important initiative in those days (early 2000s) because dependence on fossil fuels and consequent carbon emissions causing climate change in Dominica was, and is still, a problem. Most of the electricity produced in Dominica was from diesel. Very few Dominicans knew about alternative forms of energy generation such as wind, solar or hydro power. There was a pervasive myth that alternative energy installations were expensive and inefficient. The Government did make legislative changes to allow the production of electricity for domestic consumption.

Small demonstration Solar, Hydro and Wind energy generating equipment was installed at various primary schools in villages surrounding the *Trois Piton World Heritage Site* to provide the context for SLIC members, children, parents, teachers and villagers to learn of the viability of such installations and, to understand firsthand how such equipment could contribute to sustainable lifestyle.

Members of SLIC installed the equipment as part of a training workshop as follows:

- Laudat Primary School – Wind Turbine
- Grand Fond Primary School – Wind Turbine
- Morne Prosper Primary School – Wind Turbine
- Salybia Primary School (Carib Territory) – Solar System
- Colihaut Primary School - Solar System
- Corona D Smart Farm - Water turbine