

Using tech to drive efficiency – NGC upgrades its EnergySmarTT mobile app



In an effort to support national emissions reduction targets and broader global climate goals, The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) has been working to build national capacity and consciousness around energy efficiency and renewable energy (EE/RE).

In 2020, as part of its expanding portfolio of green agenda investments and initiatives, the Company developed and launched the country's first mobile app around energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) - EnergySmarTT. This app, available for free download by the public, aims to change behaviours and attitudes toward energy consumption - particularly at the domestic level - and increase awareness about the big picture environmental impact of personal choices.

At the time of its launch, it was the first local energy education mobile application in Trinidad and Tobago and allowed anyone with an Android or Apple device to gain customised insights into their individual carbon footprint.

Two years and hundreds of users later, NGC has undertaken an expansion of the pioneering app, to include more features that increase its value and streamline its functionality. The upgraded app was officially released for download in June 2022.

EnergySmarTT 2.0

Building on the strengths of the original app, the second iteration boasts several useful features:

1. The 'My Consumption' feature has been renamed 'Energy Calculator' and allows users to calculate their estimated electricity cost and carbon footprint on a daily, monthly, or yearly basis. Users can select an appliance from the list, input their usage pattern and get an estimate of what they pay to power that appliance over the specified period.

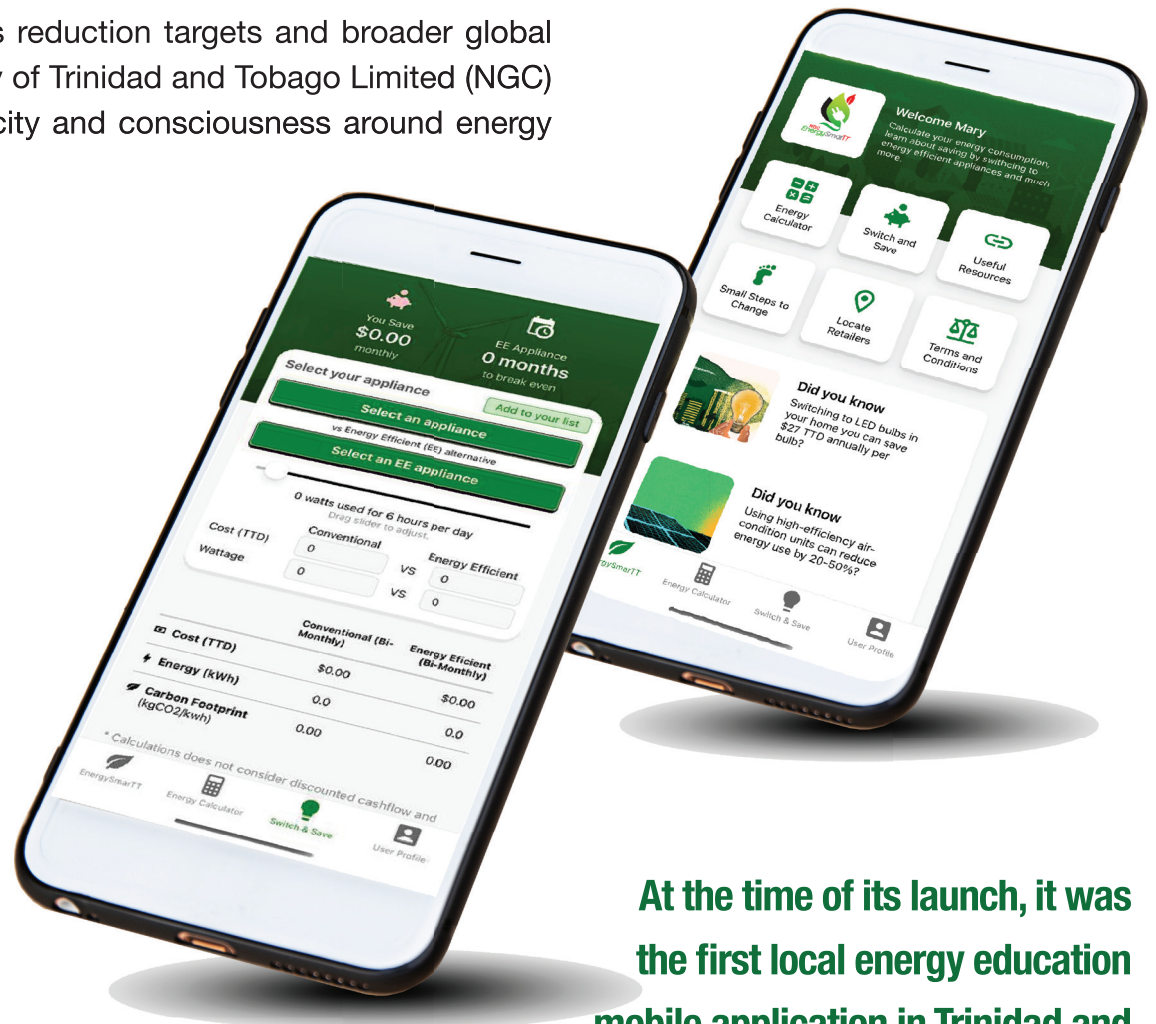
In addition, users can now input their desired expenditure on power for any given appliance, and the app will reveal what duration of usage would correspond to that figure - i.e. how many hours per day/week/month one would be able to use that appliance in order to limit its power cost to the stipulated amount.

Additional upgrades under this feature will soon include a field for users to find out estimated Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) rebates, and an expanded appliance listing with commercial-grade equipment used by small businesses and Light Industrial and Commercial (LIC) customers.

2. The 'Switch and Save' feature helps users understand the cost of purchasing an EE product. The app calculates the estimated payback period, over which the purchase cost of an EE product would be amortised - i.e. how long consumers would have to wait before realising savings on their energy bills because of that purchase. Calculations illustrate the simple payback, monthly savings, and an estimated carbon savings breakdown per day/month/year.

Additionally, the listing of products from which app users can select has been expanded to include more renewable energy products.

3. Energy Saving Tips are included to highlight the simple measures users can implement to reduce their consumption habits for common household appliances and products. The app is now also linked to another valuable resource - NGC's Carigreen



website. This site, launched in 2021, serves as a repository for academic and investor research on clean energy and energy efficiency in the Caribbean region. Through the Carigreen platform, app users can now learn about efficiency and conservation within the broader context of global climate action, which will help sensitise them to the big picture impact of managing their personal energy consumption.

4. The EnergySmarTT app has a unique feature that uses location-based services linked to mobile devices to highlight where EE products can be purchased within Trinidad and Tobago.

NGC has upgraded this feature to make it easier for businesses selling these products to get the requisite approvals to be featured on the app. It is envisioned that streamlining this process will attract more businesses to the platform and enrich the directory for app users.

Additionally, users are now able to search within a particular radius for stores that sell EE products, which further enhances their accessibility and improves the likelihood of purchase.

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As NGC intensifies its lobby for climate action at the industry, community and household levels, the Company will seek to introduce further innovations across all its energy education platforms, in an effort to amplify the reach and resonance of its messages. Users of the EnergySmarTT app can therefore expect to see further enhancements and features in the future.

NGC encourages all citizens to download the free EnergySmarTT app from their respective mobile application stores, and to visit the Carigreen website at www.carigreen.ngc.co.tt, to learn more about the movement to lower our collective carbon footprint. Action is urgently needed, and the personal choices we make today will determine what kind of planet we leave for our children.



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