



APREN launches energy literacy program for students

The pilot program of the association, which is part of the APRENDE Project, was implemented in an elementary school in the Greater Lisbon area for students of the 3rd and 4th years, intending to reach more schools throughout the country.

[APREN – Portuguese Renewable Energy Association](#) has launched a pilot program on energy literacy for students aged 6 to 10, with the aim of promoting energy education and arousing their curiosity in the sector.

The initiative arises from the World Energy Day, celebrated on May 29, under the APRENDE Project, the brand that includes all APREN actions aimed at students. By promoting energy literacy, the pilot program teaches relevant energy concepts and the importance of renewables for the future of the planet.

The program puts children in touch with some of the main concepts of the world of Energy for the first time, teaching them the terminology and explaining their meaning in a playful, simple, and fun way. The program thus overcomes a gap in the education of young people, preparing them for the future with concepts they should understand in their adult life, regardless of their profession in the future.

In addition, since this is an area of the present and the future, it makes more and more sense to awake children's curiosity for Energy issues. According to a [Deloitte study for APREN](#), renewable electricity generation companies are expected to contribute with €12.8 billion annually in 2030. Regarding human resources, the sector is expected to employ around 160,000 people in Portugal by 2030, three times the number from 2020.

"One of APREN's core objectives is to promote energy literacy in a transversal way. After this first edition we will be able to implement the program in other schools in Portugal, bringing the message of sustainability associated with renewable electricity to an increasing community of children, and thus creating a more informed and prepared generation", said Pedro Amaral Jorge, APREN's CEO.

The pilot program was implemented in two classes of EB1 Rebelo de Andrade, in Oeiras, to about 60 students from the third and fourth years of schooling. The initiative took place on May 30 and was supported by the school's coordination team.



The now implemented program, which lasts about 60 minutes, includes:

- A **video** lesson explaining renewables, which addresses the main concepts in a playful and simple way, using visual effects;
- A **debate** on the main concepts addressed in the video, to explain all doubts;
- A **practical activity**, in which children will do one of two activities, applying the concepts learned: assemble a house that exemplifies solar energy, or a windmill, as an example of wind energy;
- A **contest**, with the aim of generating involvement with the theme and the apprehension of knowledge for a longer period. The children's creativity is teased using a sentence and drawing on what they have learned. Then, with the help and involvement of parents, they apply for a sustainable mobility award: an electric scooter.

The APRENDE Project currently includes the initiatives that APREN develops with several universities. It also includes the annual APREN Award, that distinguishes the best academic dissertations of master's and doctorate, written in Portuguese or English, in the framework of the theme of electricity of renewable origin, held in higher education institutions in Portugal.

The APRENDE Project is implemented by [The Inventors](#), which is dedicated to the development of pedagogical experiences with the aim of inspiring children to the areas of engineering, arts and creativity, and has the contribution of [UpSideUp](#).

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About APREN:

The [Portuguese Renewable Energy Association \(APREN\)](#) is a nonprofit association founded in October 1988. Its mission is to coordinate and represent the common interests of its members, promoting renewables energies in the electricity field.

APREN works closely with the government and other official entities, both on a national and international levels. It participates actively in the definition of energy and environmental policies, valuing natural resources for electricity production, namely hydric, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and urban solid waste.