

A+ For Energy Showcase

April 29th, 2021

A half day online event for teachers to showcase and learn about A+ For Energy projects and hear from Alberta energy industry professionals.



Overview

Each year Inside Education's **A+ for Energy** program features teachers from across Alberta expressing their creativity by developing and delivering engaging and meaningful energy and sustainability education programs in their classrooms. In addition to the up to \$5000 each teacher receives, an important component of the program is providing energy education professional learning experiences for all the teachers selected to receive a grant.

In 2020-21, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that our normal, in-person and multi day program was replaced by online experiences. The **A+ For Energy Showcase** was designed to showcase and celebrate the energy education projects carried out by the 2020/2021 A+ For Energy grant recipients, as well as provide a professional development opportunity for teachers through talks and workshops from energy professionals. The event ran Thursday April 29th and it was hosted on Zoom and streamed to YouTube - where it still exists: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX6YhvLjhXE>

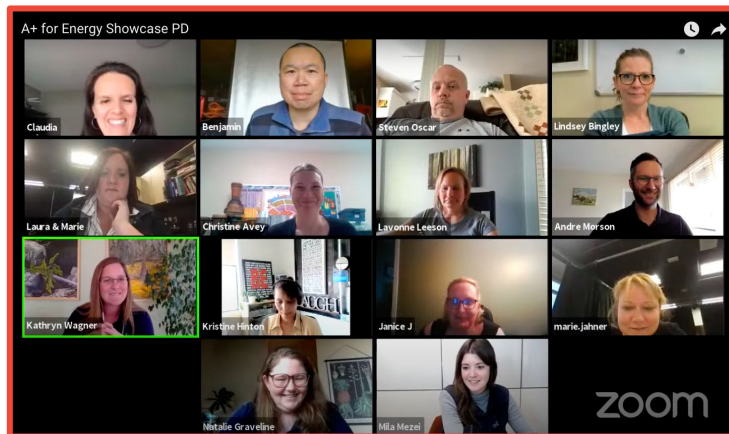




Keynote Peter Tertzakian



Micro:bit and Climate Action Kit



Participants heard from internationally renowned keynote speaker Peter Tertzakian, Deputy Director of the ARC Energy Research Institute and founder of energyphile.org. They then participated in small group breakout sessions focused on Renewable & Alternative Energy, Innovations in Energy Education and Carbon & Climate Change. The breakout sessions featured guests such as Chris Owtrim, Alberta Innovates and Emissions Reduction Alberta, Dr. Marc Secanell, University of Alberta's Energy Futures Lab, Yvanna Ireland, Energy Ecosystem and Lisa Pollio, Energy Safety Canada/PetroLMI.

As a culminating activity, an A+ For Energy Teacher's Panel was facilitated, so participants had the chance to hear directly from the teachers about their projects' successes, challenges, and highlights. At the end of the program, two separate workshops were ran - current A+ For Energy teachers participated in a networking session, and interested teachers participated in an A+ Tips & Tricks session. As an added bonus for attending the program, teachers were sent a micro:bit and Climate Action Kit to further augment energy education in their classrooms!

The Participants

The A+ For Energy Showcase included 54 teachers from 22 communities across Alberta. All 2020/2021 A+ For Energy grant recipients attended, and teachers interested in the A+ For Energy program or energy education in general were invited as well.

The program ended up having a good mix of experienced, veteran teachers and teachers that were just beginning to dip their toes in the world of energy education. The online format offered a unique opportunity to include teachers that may not have had the opportunity to travel to a regular, in-person professional development session as well as a chance for more teachers overall to participate in the program.



Experienced A+ for Energy Teacher's Panel

The Program

Program Start: 12:30
<u>Inside Ed & BP Welcome</u>
Peter Tertzakian Keynote <i>Deputy Director of the ARC Energy Research Institute</i>
Energy Expert Sessions <i>Hear from experts working in the fields of oil & gas, alternative & renewable energies, climate change and more!</i>
BREAK
A+ For Energy Showcase & Classroom Resources <i>Get inspiration from A+ For Energy projects and explore energy-related classroom resources</i>
A+ For Energy Teacher Panel <i>Hear from the current year's A+ For Energy recipients on what makes a successful project an</i>
A+ For Energy Breakouts <i>Breakout sessions on grant application writing, networking, and tips & tricks for excellent energy & climate education</i>
Program End: 4:00 PM

Expert Guests

Keynote: Peter Tertzakian, Deputy Director, ARC Energy Research Institute

Breakout Session Guests:

- Chris Owtrim, Alberta Innovates and Emissions Reduction Alberta
- Dr. Marc Secanell, Department of Mechanical Engineering & Energy Systems Design Laboratory, University of Alberta
- Yvanna Ireland, Energy Ecosystem
- Lisa Pollio, Energy Safety Canada/PetroLMI

This program also involved the development of an A+ For Energy [Project Map](#) and list of energy education resources. Participants had a chance to freely explore the resources and read about past years' A+ For Energy projects.

PROGRAM THEMES

- **Alberta's energy transition-** Exploration of renewable and alternative energy projects and other new technologies coming into play in Alberta.
- **A+ For Energy projects-** Inspiration from current A+ For Energy grant recipients.

Program Impact and Feedback

Inside Education is pleased with the success of this program and the positive feedback that was received from teachers after the program closed. The best practices learned over the last year of online programming led to the A+ For Energy Showcase running smoothly and benefitting all of the teachers and guests involved.

As always your PD sessions are not only informative in terms of content but also new teaching strategies!

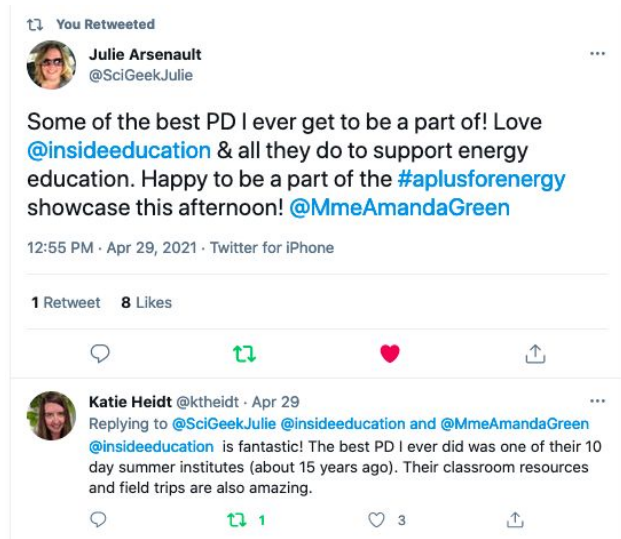
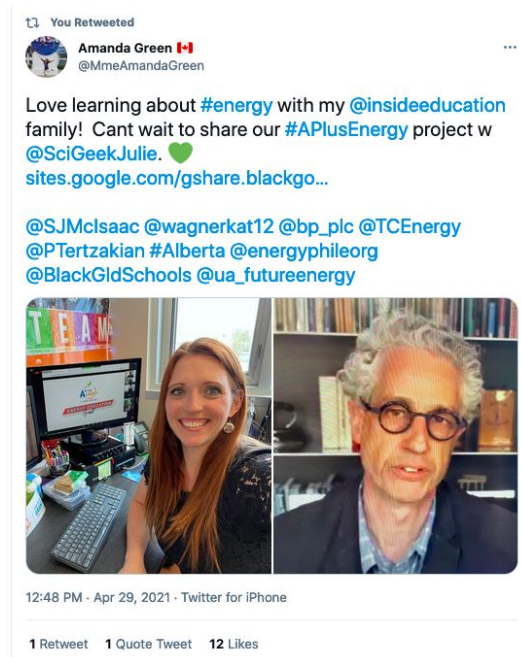
- Christine Avey, Teacher, Westmount Charter School, Calgary

So informative and engaging! Tonnes of resources and possibilities which are already created and align with the curriculum.

- Lavonne Leeson, Teacher, St. John Paul II School, Fort Saskatchewan

Inside Education has been extremely supportive of teachers' efforts to provide high quality energy education to students. The financial support is obviously pivotal, but the opportunities to engage with fellow educators and glean insight from field experts greatly aid in building our capacity to deliver relevant, engaging energy concepts to students.

- Brayden Ursaki, Teacher, St. Mary's Elementary School, Lloydminster



Summary and Futures

Inside Education was proud of the outcomes of the A+ For Energy Showcase. Presented with the challenge of offering a professional development program in a virtual environment, the team is very pleased to have coordinated a virtual program that preserved the hallmarks of an Inside Education program - multiple perspectives, expert guests, and showcasing school projects, all while furthering energy education opportunities for Alberta teachers.

It is our hope that we will be able to resume in-person professional development sessions in the 2021/2022 school year, but this program made it clear that including virtual components to this type of program is not only possible, but can actually serve as an improvement for schools in terms of reach and accessibility. We know from teacher feedback and interest demonstrated by the ongoing A+ for Energy application process that the desire to continuously improve and expand energy education is highly valued by Alberta teachers. We look forward to the 2021-22 school year and the opportunities that a hoped-for return to normalcy in our schools will afford. Our sincere appreciation to our program partners and the teachers who participated and remain our inspiration.

Contact

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Thank You to Our 2020-21 Program Partners

