



## **The student's conceptions of Geothermy are context dependant. A comparative study in the Caribbean.**

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Geothermy provides a growing source of renewable energy in the Caribbean area. In tropical volcanic islands, it is mostly used for producing electricity (high temperature geothermy) and several projects are in development at the national or international level. However, local people do not always support geothermal projects because there is concern that power plants are responsible for inconvenience in their neighborhood. This tension between global benefit (the production of green renewable energy) and local prejudice (power plant related nuisance) is still poorly studied. We have collected the conceptions about geothermy from 1349 high school students in three islands of the Lesser Antilles (Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique) via questionnaires. We demonstrate that student's conceptions are highly context dependant despite the geological and cultural similarities of the study areas. This survey also shows that the specific level of instruction in geothermy of the students cannot directly be linked to their personal opinion, which is more likely related to their perception of the ecological or economical impact of geothermy.

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