

# Cooling Champions

Empowering Women in the Refrigeration Sector

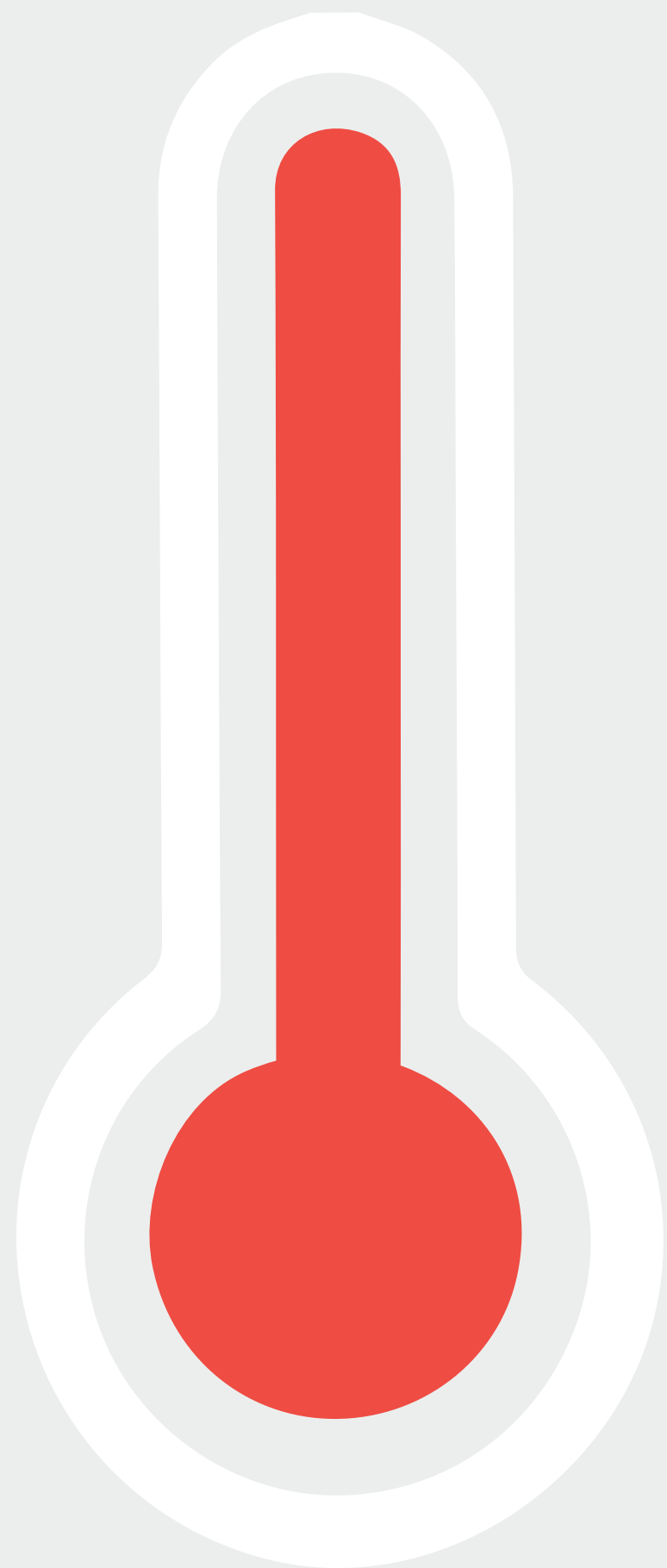
— GRENADA —





**Grenada has experienced an increase in heatwaves, with maximum temperatures reaching up to 34°C (93°F) during peak summer months.**

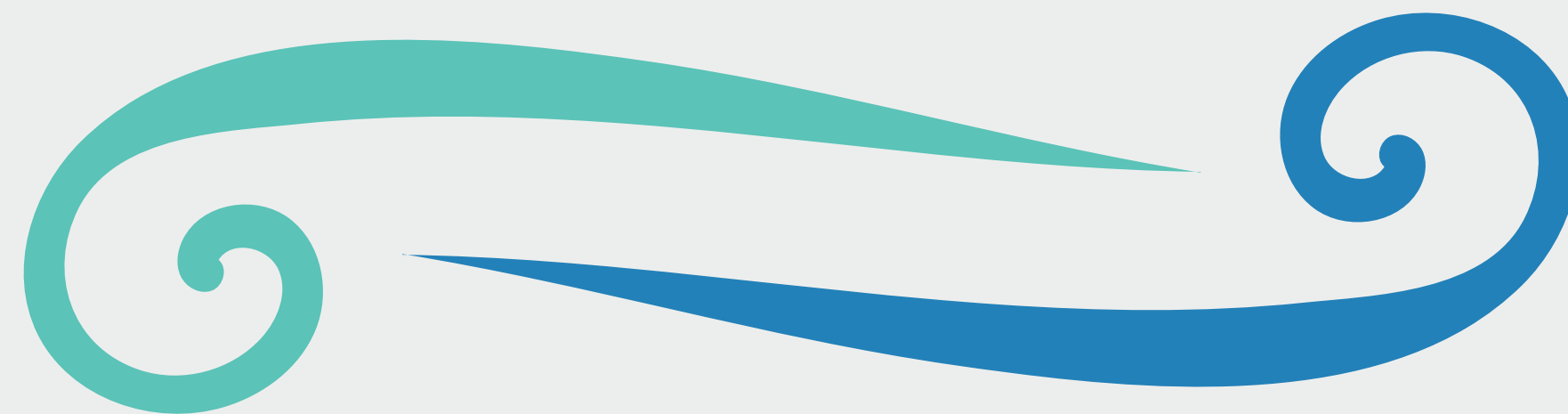




**The frequency of heatwaves has increased over the last decade, significantly impacting the community and highlighting the urgent need for effective cooling solutions.**

As temperatures rise, the demand for sustainable refrigeration and air conditioning becomes a critical adaptation strategy against climate change.





While the demand for cooling expertise grows, Grenada's refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) sector has historically been male-dominated, with women representing only 3% of the workforce in 2018.

**However, this challenge presented an unexpected opportunity for transformation.**





## **In Grenada, a group of women is breaking stereotypes and driving change in the RAC industry.**

Through the initiative "Women in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning in Grenada", female RAC technicians are trained in the safe and efficient use of natural refrigerants. The program, led by the GIZ-implemented and IKI-financed project *Cool Contributions Fighting Climate Change II (C4II)*, advocates for greater participation, leadership, and empowerment of women in this traditionally male-dominated industry.



## The initiative's success is reflected in its numbers.

By 2024, the *Women in RAC* network has grown to include **8 female trainers** committed to empowering more women with the skills required for the safe use of natural refrigerants.

Globally, C4 II initiative has supported these 8 female trainers through 10 technical *Train-the-Trainer* sessions and **engaged 251 women in various networking and training events.**





## **In 2022, Marah became the first female refrigeration and air conditioning trainer in Grenada.**

She participated in the *Cool Training* in Germany, where she learned about the safe use of natural refrigerants, such as propane (R-290), which are eco-friendly and efficient alternatives to traditional options.

This experience not only enhanced her technical skills but also connected her with other women in the field, strengthening a supportive and collaborative network.



*"It's good that younger generations can see that females are capable of doing anything, really and truly, as long as you put your mind to it, and as long as you have a passion for it, nothing is impossible."*

Marah St. John



## **In 2023, Marah was part of an all-female team in a groundbreaking project:**

installing an R-290 air conditioning unit in the office of Minister of Climate Resilience, Environment and Renewable Energy, Hon. Minister Kerryne James. Working alongside Angela, Carlinda, and Akelsha, Marah showed how collaboration and technical skills can achieve great results while breaking stereotypes in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry.





Every installation we make  
is a step toward a greener future.





*We have the capacity in having much more females involved in getting into these non-traditional roles and this career path, so we have to make sure that we lead by example as small island.*

**Hon. Kerryne James,**  
Minister of Climate Resilience, Environment  
and Renewable Energy in Grenada





**Through the combination of technical innovation and female empowerment, Grenada is showing how small islands can lead big changes in the fight against climate change.**



## Learn more about the C4 II project:

### Green Cooling Initiative

### Cool Contributions fighting Climate Change II (C4 II)

Advancing Gender Mainstreaming in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Sector: Sharing Best Practices from Grenada

C4 II is financed by the German government's International Climate Initiative (IKI).

### Sources:

- World Meteorological organization (WMO) (2020). Caribbean has record-breaking heat season. WMO
- National Ozone Unit (NOU) (2021). National Ozone Unit to launch its #CoolingChampions series. NOU
- National Ozone Unit (NOU) (2021). TODAY'S COOLING CHAMPION: Marah St. John. NOU
- Green Cooling Initiative (2023). Women in Grenada are championing change in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning sector.

### Videos:

Salt and Pepper – Women in Refrigeration  
Grenada Cool Training 2023 - Enhancing expertise on the natural refrigerant propane (R290)

### Photo credits:

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