

St Kitts eyes EU energy plans

■ BASSETERRE

THE St Kitts-Nevis government says it is strategically positioning the twin-island Federation to become a net exporter of renewable energy, capitalising on the European Union's (EU) growing interest in sourcing green hydrogen from the Caribbean.

'The EU has expressed a strong interest in buying renewable energy, including hydrogen, from our region. This means that beyond achieving energy independence, St Kitts and Nevis has the potential to become an energy exporter, creating new economic opportunities for our people,' Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis Dr Terrance Drew told reporters.

He said the initiative aligns with the country's 'Sustainable Island State Agenda' and that the government is accelerating investments in geothermal, solar, and wind energy projects.

He said that these initiatives are being undertaken in partnership with key international stakeholders, including the Saudi Fund for Development and the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Drew said that his administration has already secured full funding for the Nevis geothermal project, which will harness the island's vast geothermal resources to generate approximately 50-60 megawatts of electricity.

He said this initiative will not only meet domestic energy demands but also facilitate energy exports to neighbouring islands and beyond. In addition to geothermal energy, the government is advancing a 50-megawatt solar farm project in collaboration with the Republic of China (Taiwan).

This project follows a renegotiation of a previous agreement to ensure more favourable terms for St Kitts and Nevis. Plans for a wind energy project are also in motion, with the installation of cutting-edge wind turbines designed to withstand severe weather conditions.

Drew said that these renewable energy developments will significantly reduce electricity costs for citizens and businesses while contributing to the Federation's transition toward energy sustainability.

'Investing in renewable energy is crucial for the long-term resilience of our economy. Not only will we achieve energy security, but we will also open doors to new revenue streams that will benefit our nation for generations to come,' Drew said.

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