

ANSA McAL looks at hydrogen capture

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ANSA McAL Limited is looking into increasing the recovery of greenhouse gases, including hydrogen, from its Caribbean plants.

This was revealed by the company's Chief Legal and External Affairs Officer Frances Bain-Cumberbatch at day two of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Conference at the Hilton Trinidad on Tuesday.

"For the last 25 years, Carib Brewery has been recovering (carbon dioxide) in Trinidad and St Kitts. We have been recovering carbon dioxide from our manufacturing process and reusing that in our manufacturing of beverages.

So, since we've been doing this for 25 years, the equipment and technology is not up to speed, and we've decided, because we are not recovering as much, that we need to go bigger and better.

And that is what required investment, which we are prepared to make and we'll be doing more of that in terms of recovering hydrogen from our processes at the brewery," said Bain-Cumberbatch during a panel discussion of the topic "Decarbonisation of the hard-to-abate sectors in the Caribbean."

She explained the capture of hydrogen was encouraged following the company's acquisition Bleachtech last November, which gave the group greater insight into the process.

"Hydrogen is not a direct greenhouse gas, but it is considered an indirect greenhouse gas, and at our plants in Virginia we feed, store and compress and then we sell off hydrogen to commercial clients like Walmart in the United States. And we are right now exploring projects in Trinidad because we have been in the bleach business, as I said, for 40 years.

ANSA Chemicals is our company, and we will be exploring similar projects. In fact, we are seriously exploring with a partner to do a similar exercise in Trinidad," she said.

She continued, "It's a journey, we've begun the journey as we are focussed and committed to achieving our objectives and playing our part in reducing our carbon emissions. This is one aspect of our sustainability journey, because we have other aspects which deal with water conservation, energy reduction and more things of that nature."