

Solar energy eritrea

Like other countries in the Horn of Africa, Eritrea is not spared from the adverse effects of extreme weather and climate-related disasters. Now compounded even further by the unprecedented socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the worsening climatic conditions jeopardise the country's development trajectory, as the crisis has further eroded the resilience capacities of communities.

Despite these challenges, Eritrea's accession to the global environment and energy conventions are among the country's attempts to reverse the worsening climatic trends. The country demonstrates its resourcefulness and an enormous commitment by playing a part in reducing net emissions by upholding the basic tenets of the Paris Agreement that requires all parties to make ambitious contributions.

The government envisages achieving its goals of being climate change-responsive by ensuring the transition to a carbon-free economy. It is also working towards raising the share of electricity generation from renewable energy.

According to the 2019 World Bank Global Electrification Database, 50.3 per cent of Eritreans have access to electricity, with electrification reaching 75.6 per cent and 36.6 per cent of the urban and rural population, respectively.

Eritrea's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) identifies a shift from fossil fuel-based energy generation to electricity generation mixes using renewable sources and reducing transmission and distribution losses. It also encourages environmentally sound technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The country's energy sector also emphasises the use and introduction of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal power, and taking concrete measures away from fossil fuel dependency.

Through its NDC, Eritrea reflects a sustained commitment to implementing mitigation and adaptation interventions with notable progress on energy transition to meet the growing energy demand through increased energy efficiency and modern energy technologies.

The government is working with relevant stakeholders across various sectors towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions by implementing carbon-neutral, sustainable pathways that directly bear on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Renewable energy solutions such as wind and solar are some of the most affordable alternatives readily available and essential engines for green job creation and sustainably reinventing economies post the pandemic.

Besides contributing to net-zero's objective by 2050, scaling up clean energy access is equally critical to

uplifting the lives of communities in an affordable, cost-effective, and sustainable manner. Consequently, we cannot underestimate the enormous potential of renewable energy resources that the country could leverage.

However, increased access to affordable technology is required to guarantee the viability of pursuing a broad renewable energy portfolio that ensures affordability, accessibility and adaptability are within reach.

For Eritrea, fundamental opportunities for clean energy sustainability include ownership that the government and participating communities have already demonstrated in implementing energy access projects with high potential for replication and up-scaling.

Communities are already playing a catalytic role as partners to the existing communal structures that provide reliable resources and ownership to boost implementation.

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