

PILLARS OF PROGRESS:

Tracking St. Kitts and Nevis' Journey to 2040

5 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

The goal of the Sustainable Settlements pillar in St. Kitts and Nevis is to create urban and rural areas that are resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sound by 2040. A core objective is to ensure that all residents have access to safe, affordable housing and basic services. Rapid migration to Basseterre since the sugar industry's closure in 2005 has strained resources, while coastal development exposes critical infrastructure to flooding and erosion. To build resilience, the government is implementing an Urban Resilience Plan for Greater Basseterre, constructing 2,400 Smart Homes and 1,000 low-income homes, and promoting climate-proof infrastructure. Plans include developing a new urban center in Cayon and integrating land and water management to safeguard ecosystems. This comprehensive approach ensures inclusive, safe, and climate-resilient communities by 2040.

"The government reaffirms its commitment to ensuring an affordable housing market that incorporates advancements in construction technology to meet the need for modern, energy-efficient, and affordable housing for financially challenged citizens at risk of homelessness. This highlights a focus on both affordability and quality in housing initiatives"



Hon. Dr. Geoffrey Hanley
Minister of Education, Youth Empowerment, Housing & Human Settlement, Ecclesiastical & Faith-Based Affairs, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Aging and Disabilities

KEY FACTS

- The government has initiated the construction of 2,400 smart homes to provide affordable, climate-resilient housing solutions.
- The Ministry of Sustainable Development is allocating lands in communities across St. Kitts to facilitate the construction of new homes

- Approximately 31% of the population in St. Kitts and Nevis resides in urban areas

- The 2022 Population and Housing Census reported an 8.7% population growth compared to 2011, indicating a rising demand for housing and infrastructure.

- Approximately, 34% of households in St. Kitts are renters, highlighting the significance of the rental market in the nation's housing landscape.

- St. Kitts and Nevis has approximately 15,000 housing units, with 60% owner-occupied

Approximately, 95% of households have access to piped water, 98% have electricity, but only 75% have access to improved sanitation facilities.

SEVEN PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE:



ENERGY
TRANSITION



WATER
SECURITY



FOOD & NUTRITION
SECURITY



SUSTAINABLE
INDUSTRY



SUSTAINABLE
SETTLEMENTS



CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



HEALTH & SOCIAL
PROTECTION

GOALS & PRIORITIES

The SISA's approach to sustainable settlements focuses on resilient infrastructure, climate-adaptive planning, inclusive urban development, and strategic land use. The primary goal is to create safe, inclusive, and climate-resilient communities by addressing urbanization pressures, upgrading infrastructure, and integrating sustainable land and water management practices to support long-term habitability and growth by 2040.

KEY TARGETS

- Formulating a pragmatic housing policy
- Adding and improving the existing stock of housing
- Ensuring affordable quality housing
- Providing social housing to low-income households
- Making housing climate-resistant
- Renovating dilapidated and abandoned property
- Protecting historical buildings

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Build 2,400 Smart Homes, 1,000 low-income homes, and upgrade existing infrastructure.
- Provide homeownership programs and low-cost financing for targeted groups.
- Create new urban centers, implement Urban Resilience Plans, and update the National Physical Development Plan.
- Integrate land-use planning, strengthen rural-urban links, and expand green public spaces.
- Develop climate-resilient infrastructure and protect cultural and natural heritage sites.
- Implement waste, water, and energy management for sustainable settlements.

SDG ALIGNMENT TRACKER

KEY TARGETS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

SDG ALIGNMENT (TARGET)

Formulating a pragmatic housing policy



Adding and improving the existing stock of housing



Ensuring affordable quality housing



Providing social housing to low-income households



Making housing climate-resistant



Renovating dilapidated and abandoned property



Protecting historical buildings



Build 2,400 Smart Homes, 1,000 low-income homes, and upgrade infrastructure



Provide homeownership programs and low-cost financing



Create new urban centers and update the National Physical Development Plan



Integrate land-use planning and expand green public spaces



Develop climate-resilient infrastructure



Protect cultural and natural heritage sites



Implement waste, water, and energy management systems



Strengthen rural-urban links



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Housing Construction:** Approximately 100 new homes are under construction in Atlas, St. Peters, and Sandy Point, ranging from two-bedroom to three-bedroom units, expected to be completed by mid-2025.
- **Smart Housing Project:** Implementing a flagship project delivering affordable, sustainable, and quality homes, contributing to a housing boom for ordinary families.
- **Responsive Design Adjustments:** Redesigned homes to include larger 12x12 bedrooms based on citizen feedback, delaying the project by six months to meet community needs.
- **Building Reset Program:** Extended until December 2025, offering duty-free concessions and reduced rates on building materials for first-time homeowners and renovations up to \$500,000.
- **Housing Development:** Initiated project to build 2,400 smart homes over four years.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Improved ferry port infrastructure and implemented a US\$4.5M LED lighting project to reduce energy use.
- **Community Projects:** Approved 60 GEF projects for biodiversity, climate adaptation, and urban sustainability.

PROGRESS METER

The Smart Homes initiative supports Sustainable Settlements by delivering 2,400 climate-resilient homes, improving housing quality, and enabling generational investment. Infrastructure upgrades, including ferry port enhancements and a US\$4.5M LED lighting project, advance Energy Transition and climate resilience. Community projects and the Greater Basseterre Resilience Plan promote climate adaptation, urban sustainability, and community empowerment. Integrated land-use planning and policy frameworks ensure inclusive, sustainable development, while urban revitalization projects enhance infrastructure and create vibrant, resilient communities.



Progress determined by NDPF indicators

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

THE SMART HOMES INITIATIVE

- The Smart Homes Initiative is a flagship project under St. Kitts and Nevis's Sustainable Island State Agenda (SISA), targeting the construction of 2,400 affordable, energy-efficient homes over four years. Delivered in partnership with East Coast Housing Development Ltd., the initiative includes modern, climate-resilient features such as solar energy, energy-efficient appliances, and rooftop water heaters.
- Local contractors benefit from skills training in advanced construction techniques, while financing options are available through seven financial institutions. Designed for graduates, young men, and single mothers, the initiative advances housing affordability, builds local capacity, and supports sustainability goals for inclusive, resilient communities.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- **Resilient Housing:** Construction of Smart and low-income homes with energy-efficient features and affordable financing.
- **Urban Development:** Implement Urban Resilience Plans, revitalize abandoned properties, and update land-use plans and building codes.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Upgrade transportation, water systems, and integrate renewable energy for efficiency.
- **Community Engagement:** Promote social inclusion and provide safe, accessible green public spaces.
- **Policy Frameworks:** Develop housing policies, improve land tenure systems, and enforce green building standards.



SISA 2040 VISION

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis (GOSKN) established a vision for a Sustainable Island State by 2040 in which government agencies, civil society, and the private sector are encouraged to collaborate in redefining approaches to governance, public policy, and socio-economic development.

The SISA Vision is to transform St. Kitts and Nevis into a Sustainable Island State by 2040, by developing a robust, diversified economy that integrates sustainability with economic prosperity. The aim is to attract green investments and foster industries that utilize local sustainable resources, thereby enhancing economic stability and creating high-quality, sustainable jobs.

THE SISA APPROACH

The SISA is more than a vision; it's a dynamic, structured mechanism designed to guide the nation's transition to a sustainable island state by 2040. It achieves this through a multifaceted approach that encompasses several key strategies:

- **Strategic Alignment:** The SISA is strategically aligned with the existing National Development Planning Framework (NDPF), by leveraging its robust methodology, data-driven analysis, and key sustainability indicators.
- **Resource Mobilization:** A core function of SISA is to actively mobilize resources for climate resilience and sustainability efforts by promoting existing projects and identifying flagship initiatives to secure regional and international funding.
- **Visibility and Communication:** SISA serves as a central hub to promote sustainability efforts, raise public awareness, and boost recognition through targeted branding and outreach strategies.
- **Inter-Ministerial Collaboration:** SISA coordinates cross-ministry efforts, supporting communication and cooperation to advance holistic, cross-sectoral sustainability initiatives.
- **Societal Engagement:** SISA promotes shared responsibility for sustainability, encouraging active participation and collective action across all segments of society.



**MOBILIZE
RESOURCES**



**CREATE
VISIBILITY**



**ALIGN &
CONNECT**



**INSPIRE
ACTION**

**Ministries of Sustainable Development, Environment,
Climate Action & Constituency Empowerment**
Unit C21, Sands Complex
Basseterre St. Kitts

Tel: +1 869 467 1579
Email: environment@gov.kn
Web: <http://sisa.gov.kn>