

# PILLARS OF PROGRESS:

Tracking St. Kitts and Nevis' Journey to 2040

## 6 CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The circular economy pillar focuses on minimizing waste and maximizing resource use, to build a sustainable and resilient economy. This involves transitioning from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to a circular one, where resources are used efficiently, regenerated, and recycled at the end of their lifecycle. Key strategies include reducing waste through prevention, recycling, and reuse; mandating recycling and upcycling programs; and improving waste management systems with environmentally sound practices. The approach promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns, enhances resource efficiency, and supports biological resource conservation and regeneration. It also aligns with the government's focus on marine conservation by reducing land-based pollution and requires public education to encourage sustainable lifestyles. Additionally, it seeks to strengthen the local economy by developing value-added products from waste, creating a closed-loop system that minimizes environmental impact and enhances resilience.

"Our landfill is bursting at the seams with plastics. What was once thought of as a viable solution to paper based products has now become the gravest problem for our oceans.[...] Our diet, no matter how conscientious, has traces of cancer related micro-plastics. St Kitts and Nevis must now do its part to protect lives and livelihoods"



**Hon. Dr. Joyelle Clarke**  
Minister of Sustainable  
Development, Environment and  
Climate Action and Constituency  
Empowerment

### KEY FACTS

- The Federation generates 32,363 metric tons of waste annually, averaging 1.67 kg per person daily, exceeding the regional average of 0.99 kg in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The St. Kitts Solid Waste Management Recycling Project, launched in June 2022, boosted recycling from 38,749 pounds of plastic in 2022 to 73,492 pounds in 2023.
- St. Kitts and Nevis ranks fourth globally in per capita waste generation, with 5.45 kg of trash produced per person daily.
- Importation ban of single-use plastic shopping bags effective December 31, 2024
- Public solid waste collection serves 95% of households, while most businesses rely on private systems.
- Increased littering in forests, waterways, and beaches is driven by widespread use of plastics and styrofoam, limited environmental education, and indiscriminate dumping.
- The island has limited landfill capacity, which poses a significant challenge

### 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 Circular Economy pillar of SISA aims to shift from a linear to a circular model, prioritizing waste reduction through prevention, reuse, recycling, and upcycling. It seeks to promote sustainable consumption and production, implement proper waste management, ensure resource efficiency, and support marine conservation. This approach will require education, policy integration, and strong political support to build a more resilient and sustainable economy by 2040.

## KEY TARGETS

- Reducing waste through prevention, reuse, recycling, and upcycling
- Promoting sustainable consumption and efficient resource use
- Establishing comprehensive waste and pollution management systems
- Supporting marine and environmental conservation efforts
- Creating value-added products to strengthen the local economy
- Integrating circular economy policies

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Reduce waste generation through prevention, reuse, recycling, and recovery initiatives.
- Implement mandatory recycling programs and promote circular economy practices to transform waste into resources.
- Develop waste infrastructure including sanitary landfills, hazardous waste sites, and waste-to-energy facilities.
- Create sector-specific policies with incentives for tourism and manufacturing to adopt sustainable practices.
- Launch public awareness campaigns on recycling, sustainable consumption, and environmental protection.
- Enhance data systems with baseline studies and monitoring to improve waste management strategies.

# SDG ALIGNMENT TRACKER

| KEY TARGETS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES                                                                                 | SDG ALIGNMENT (TARGET)                            |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Reducing waste through prevention, reuse, recycling, and upcycling                                                   | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>12.5 |                                               |
| Promoting sustainable consumption and efficient resource use                                                         | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>12.2 |                                               |
| Establishing comprehensive waste and pollution management systems                                                    | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION<br>6.3               | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES<br>11.6 |
| Supporting marine and environmental conservation efforts                                                             | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER<br>14.1                       |                                               |
| Creating value-added products to strengthen the local economy                                                        | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH<br>8.2          |                                               |
| Integrating circular economy policies                                                                                | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>12.5 | 13 CLIMATE ACTION<br>13.2                     |
| Reducing waste generation through prevention, reuse, recycling, and recovery initiatives                             | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>12.1 | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS<br>17.14        |
| Implementing mandatory recycling programs and promoting circular economy practices to transform waste                | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>12.3 |                                               |
| Developing waste infrastructure, including sanitary landfills, hazardous waste sites, and waste-to-energy facilities | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE<br>9.4  | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION<br>6.3           |
| Creating sector-specific policies with incentives for tourism and manufacturing to adopt sustainable practices       | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>12.6 |                                               |
| Launching public awareness campaigns on recycling, sustainable consumption, and environmental protection             | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>12.8 |                                               |
| Enhancing data systems with baseline studies and monitoring to improve waste management strategies                   | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS<br>17.18            |                                               |



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Circular Economy Integration:** Incorporated circular economy principles into the National Development Planning Framework (2023–2037).
- **Recycling Infrastructure:** Established a recycling plant in Nevis and launched a plastic recycling system at the Lowlands landfill.
- **Public Awareness:** Organized campaigns like 'Plastic Free July' to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- **Solid Waste Management Projects:** Launched a US\$1M recycling project in collaboration with Taiwan, including drop-off stations and bin placement programs.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Joined the Regional Coalition on Circular Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean to foster innovation and resource mobilization.
- **Water Management Innovation:** Implemented a pilot grey water treatment system in Basseterre with GEF support.
- **Recycling Participation:** Achieved increased community recycling participation through public-private partnerships.
- **Sustainable Tourism:** Introduced the Heart of St. Kitts Sustainability Charter to encourage eco-friendly practices in the tourism sector.
- **Community Cleanse Initiatives:** Conducted annual clean-up events to align with SDGs and promote environmental health.
- **Waste Collection Coverage:** Expanded public waste collection to 95% of households and enhanced private systems for businesses.

## FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING PROJECT

- The St. Kitts and Nevis Solid Waste Management and Recycling Project (SWMRP), in partnership with the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), is the country's flagship circular economy initiative. This US\$1 million project has resulted in the establishment of a Recycling and Packaging Plant in Nevis and a pilot plastic recycling system at the Lowlands landfill.
- The SWMRP demonstrates the government's commitment through financial investment and infrastructure development. While other efforts such as awareness campaigns and integrating circularity into national plans exist, the SWMRP stands out due to its tangible results and direct focus on waste management and recycling.

## PROGRESS METER

St. Kitts and Nevis is advancing its transition to a sustainable island state by 2040 through integrating circular economy principles into the National Development Planning Framework (2023–2037). Achievements include establishing a recycling plant in Nevis, a plastic recycling system at Lowlands landfill, and the US\$1M Solid Waste Management Project with Taiwan, featuring drop-off stations and bin programs. Public awareness campaigns like 'Plastic Free July,' regional collaboration in the Circular Economy Coalition, and a pilot grey water treatment system in Basseterre further support these efforts. Waste collection now covers 95% of households, reflecting strong progress under the Sustainable Island State Agenda.



Progress determined by NDPF indicators

## INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- **Waste Management:** Expand recycling facilities, improve disposal sites, and enhance collection infrastructure.
- **Renewable Energy:** Invest in solar, wind, waste-to-energy, and electric vehicle infrastructure.
- **Water Management:** Expand grey water systems, improve storage, and explore desalination.
- **Sustainable Industries:** Promote eco-tourism, local manufacturing, and climate-smart agriculture.
- **Technology:** Digitize systems, support waste management R&D, and adopt emissions-reducing technologies.
- **Capacity Building:** Train workers, raise awareness, and invest in education.
- **Policies:** Develop circular economy policies, strengthen regulations, and simplify investment processes.



## 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**

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