



# Santo domingo microgrid energy storage

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"We are very excited about developing these energy solutions for the benefit of the Dominican Republic, saving millions of dollars in state funds, which can be redirected to more needed areas such as public health, education and security," said Edwin de los Santos, president of AES Dominicana.

In September 2017, when Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the island, storage systems helped keep the Dominican grid running when between 40 and 55 percent of the island's power plants stopped working.

"AES Dominicana's energy storage arrays enhanced the Dominican grid during a most trying time, helping keep vital power resources online," said John Zahurancik, President of AES Energy Storage. "Not only does energy storage improve reliability of the grid on a daily basis, this experience demonstrates how it can add to overall resilience under extreme conditions."

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Santo Domingo "The executive director of the National Energy Commission (CNE), Edward Veras, announced during Energyyear Caribe 2024 that the CNE's board of directors approved the modification of Resolution CNE-AD-0004-2023, which raises the storage requirements for renewable energy projects. The new regulation, officially issued after completing administrative steps, will require projects of more than 20 megawatts to include at least 50% battery storage capacity.

Veras stressed that energy storage is now a critical public policy, supported by President Luis Abinader, who considers this measure essential to ensure the success of the country's energy transition. Likewise, the private sector's response has been very positive. 80% of the concessions granted already include storage systems, demonstrating developers' commitment to this regulation. "Storage is crucial to integrate more renewable energies efficiently and maintain the stability of the electricity system," Veras said.

The official also highlighted the collaboration between the public and private sectors as essential factors in advancing the energy transition. "Government institutions are aligned and working in a coordinated manner to facilitate this transition," he added.

Regarding the financial challenges, Veras pointed out that to reach the 30% renewable energy goal by 2030, at least US\$5.4 billion in investments will be needed. To this end, he proposed creating a pool of energy projects to attract financing on a larger scale. In addition, he stressed the importance of maintaining a clear and efficient regulatory framework to continue generating confidence among investors.

"The challenge is financial, not technical. To meet our goals, we must mobilize the necessary capital, and this will only be possible with the collaboration of all the actors in the sector," he said nally, Veras emphasized that energy planning has been essential to consolidate the Dominican Republic as a leader in the transition to renewable energies. "Our energy plan has given investors the necessary confidence to see the country as a safe destination for their projects, which has allowed us to move towards a cleaner and more efficient energy matrix," he concluded.

The executive director of the CNE addressed these issues during the opening of the second day of Energyyear Caribe in an #OnetoOne entitled "Continuing Energy Planning: New Challenges," moderated by Catalina Barrera, editor-in-chief of Review Energy.

Energyyear Caribe is the regional summit event for the energy sector. It discusses challenges and opportunities in renewable energy, energy transition, and emerging technologies. Held on September 18 and 19 at the Hotel El Embajador, this year's event consolidated its role as a key platform to foster collaboration between the public and private sectors, attracting investors, developers, and key players in the sustainable development of energy in the Caribbean and Latin America.

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