Green electricity montevideo

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Uruguay is in the eastern temperate zone of South America, with a landscape dominated by natural grasslands interspersed with native forests, palm groves, wetlands, valleys, and coastal lagoons.The race site for the Uruguay Natural Energy X Prix sits near the sandy beaches of Punta del Este, on the Atlantic facing, 660km long, coastline in South-eastern Uruguay.

As Extreme E heads to Punta del Este in Uruguay (26-27 November) for the final showdown of Season 2, we look at the environmental challenges and sustainable solutions at work within the region.

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Uruguay’s journey towards environmental sustainability has entered a new phase with its second energy transition, which aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. This strategic move is in line with the country’s Long-Term Climate Strategy from 2021 and underlines its commitment to a greener, more sustainable future.

In a significant step forward, just over eighteen months after the launch of Uruguay’s Hydrogen Roadmap in November 2023, with the support of the International Development Bank (IDB) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) in Montevideo, the Roadmap has undergone a decisive update. This revision, enriched by more than a year of public consultation and with the collaborative efforts of international cooperation initiatives, such as the PtX Hub, highlights the country’s proactive stance in addressing the urgent need for concrete actions to make the Green Hydrogen Action Plan a reality.

Building on an already impressive first phase of its energy transition, Uruguay has made remarkable progress in decarbonising its electricity generation. Between 2016 and 2022, renewable energy sources accounted for an average of 94% of the country’s electricity mix, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable energy. The breakdown of this mix includes 44% from hydropower, 31% from wind energy, 17% from biomass, and 2% from solar energy.

This fundamental progress sets the stage for the next ambitious phase: advancing the hydrogen economy and further defossilising the energy sector, particularly transport and industry.

“Once the electricity matrix has been decarbonised, Uruguay is preparing to advance in the defossilisation of other sectors of the economy, particularly the transport and industry sectors, which are the

main consumers of fossil resources, resorting to various mechanisms that include direct electrification, Power-to-X solutions, the development of the green hydrogen vector and its derivatives, among others.“

During the VIII Energy Week in Montevideo, hosted by the Organizaci?n Latinoamericana de Energ?a (OLADE), the Ministerio de Industria, Energ?a y Miner?a (MIEM), and IDB, Uruguay showed significant progress in the field of green hydrogen and derivatives. The event was a platform to present the refined version of the Green Hydrogen and Derivatives Roadmap, prepared under the leadership of Mar?a Jos? Gonz?lez of MIEM.

“The hydrogen roadmap is an integrated development strategy, both in its territorial approach as well as its complementarity with other existing activities at the national level and will have a strong impact on local development. This activity can only be developed under a sustainable framework, with a rigorous environmental commitment and the leadership of the State in planning and control.“

Mar?a Jos? Gonz?lez, H2U Project Coordinator and Adviser to the Minister on Energy and Environmental Matters

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