

From Solar Islands to Sustainable Tourism: Maldives Wins Green Crown

The Maldives has been named the World's Leading Green Destination at the prestigious World Travel Awards 2024, a testament to the government's visionary sustainability initiatives. Competing against renowned destinations such as Chile, Madagascar, Norway, and Peru, this marks the first time the Maldives has received this esteemed accolade, further solidifying its status as a global leader in environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The government has set an ambitious goal to transition 33% of the nation's energy production to renewable sources by 2028. This commitment is supported by comprehensive policies to explore renewable energy technologies, build skilled human resources, reduce energy costs and waste, incorporate renewables into transportation, and strengthen regulatory frameworks. These efforts are underpinned by the Maldives Energy Act (Law No. 18/2021), which provides a robust foundation for fostering sustainable energy practices nationwide.

Key government initiatives include an ambitious program by State owned electric company- STELCO by the end of the current administration's term, this project aims to deliver 12 hours of solar-powered electricity to Islands with low peak load, significantly reducing reliance on diesel generators and cutting emissions. The success of solar integration in Vaavu Rakeedhoo, where diesel engines are now

switched off for up to 22 hours a day, demonstrates the transformative potential of renewable energy. Similar projects are being rolled out across other islands, showcasing the Maldives' commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

The award also underscores the Maldives' integration of sustainability into its tourism industry, which has become a benchmark for eco-conscious travel worldwide. The nation's pristine natural beauty, combined with its forward-thinking environmental policies, has positioned the Maldives as a leader in sustainable tourism. Visitors to the Maldives can now experience unparalleled luxury while contributing to the preservation of one of the world's most fragile ecosystems.

The World Travel Awards, widely regarded as the most prestigious honors in the travel and tourism industry, celebrate excellence across all key sectors. Winners are determined through a global voting process by travel professionals and consumers. This latest accolade reinforces the Maldives' leadership in balancing economic growth with environmental preservation, showcasing the government's unwavering commitment to building a sustainable future for the nation and its people.