



FRENZ Newsletter

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Resilience building through renewable energy

Alastair Brookes, FRENZ Lead Adviser

Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter. Coming as it does right in the midst of the Atlantic hurricane season, it is fitting that this edition is focused on resilience in all its facets and the role which renewable energy plays in this.

To that end, we're pleased to have released our new blog, sharing deeper insights and expertise on topics related to renewable energy exploration and development in the Caribbean. Read on for an excerpt from our latest blog post, **Energy Security and Climate Resilience: Inseparable Twins of the Caribbean Energy Transition** by FRENZ Co-Delivery Manager, Joseph Williams.

"In short, a resilient system is a deliberately engineered, diverse, distributed network with redundancy and rapid recovery, in which renewables are hardened and backed up rather than simply maximised. Resilience is a design outcome, not a fuel choice, informed by clear assessment of outage risks, impacts and avoided costs to the economy. It is anchored by appropriate climate finance, making more reliable energy infrastructure affordable and socially justified."

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more.



About Aotearoa New Zealand - Caribbean Facility for Renewable Energy (FRENZ)

FRENZ is supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) through its International Development Cooperation Programme.

Since 2014, Aotearoa New Zealand has been working in partnership with Caribbean countries and partners to progress the development of geothermal energy resources in the Caribbean region.

In 2023, Aotearoa New Zealand committed a further NZD11.6M (~USD7M) to the five-year Phase 3 of the FRENZ Facility. The Facility is designed to support Caribbean countries and partners to achieve their renewable energy and climate change goals by accessing the technical resources required to obtain finance and implement renewable energy projects, with a focus on geothermal energy.

The Goal of FRENZ is access to more affordable, reliable, sustainable and resilient energy supplies able to support development in the Eastern Caribbean.

Meet the FRENZ Team



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COUNTRY ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Dominica

In our first issue, we highlighted FRENZ's support for geothermal exploration in northern Dominica. Field surveys identified a geothermal resource free of critical constraints, with estimated generation potential of 25 MW P90 to 80 MW P50.

Working alongside the Government of Dominica and with support from the University of the West Indies, FRENZ provided technical expertise across geoscience, geophysics, geology, drilling and project planning. Work including field surveys and resource assessments helped build the evidence needed to develop a conceptual exploration drilling plan, marking an important step forward for this previously unexplored geothermal prospect.

The Government of Dominica requested further FRENZ support to advance a geothermal resource confirmation programme in the north — signalling strong confidence in the work to date and momentum towards the next phase.



New Zealand High Commissioner H.E. Linda Te Puni, pictured with plant General Manager Fred Jean during her June 2026 visit to Dominica's 10 MW Geothermal Power plant in the Roseau Valley that New Zealand supported in the very early stages with technical support, which is now in commercial operation.



FRENZ and local teams at work in Union Island.

St Vincent and The Grenadines

A lesson in resilience and rebuilding comes from St Vincent & the Grenadines, where FRENZ has been working with St Vincent Electricity Services Limited (VINLEC) on the path forward for the Union Island power station, solar plant and battery after it was destroyed by Hurricane Beryl in July 2024.

VINLEC needed a pathway to rebuild the island's entire power station — creating a Category 5 hurricane-resilient design that also supported a greater role for renewable energy.

FRENZ worked alongside VINLEC to develop a comprehensive rebuild plan, including technical designs, a phased recovery pathway and a funding landscape to help unlock the investment needed. Importantly, community concerns around noise, emissions, drainage and rainwater collection have also been incorporated into the design.

The result is a **practical, resilient and fundable plan** which now positions VINLEC to move into detailed design, financing and procurement and offers transferable lessons for Caribbean neighbours on how to rebuild a solar, battery and diesel power station resiliently.

COUNTRY ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Saint Lucia

Geothermal energy is most often associated with electricity generation - however it can have much broader applications.

In Saint Lucia, FRENZ has begun working with the government through its Renewable Energy Sector Development Project to explore geothermal direct-use opportunities, identifying ways the country's geothermal resources could potentially be used beyond power generation for heating, cooling, agriculture and more. The work will assess technologies, markets and the practical barriers and opportunities that could shape future investment, while considering how benefits and opportunities can be socially inclusive.

In September 2026, the FRENZ team visited Saint Lucia to consult with communities, businesses and government stakeholders on geothermal direct use opportunities.



The FRENZ and RESDP teams on the ground at the Soufriere Fisheries Co-op for a stakeholder engagement session.

Grenada

FRENZ support is helping Grenada advance towards exploratory geothermal drilling, strengthening the technical and procurement foundations needed to move ahead. Key inputs, including the well design, drilling programme, civil works, hydrology and

environmental and social safeguards — are now being developed or advanced, while FRENZ expertise is helping to fill critical capacity gaps.

FRENZ has supported Grenada's Integrated Resource and Resiliency Planning process to help identify resilient and cost-effective energy pathways for the future. Earlier this year, FRENZ hosted the final of six technical workshops for the development of the IRRP.

Given the importance to Grenada of resilience of the electrical system to hurricanes, generation technologies were considered in terms of the likely extent of damage in adverse weather, ease, cost and time to repair damage and impact of weather on regular (required) supply chains.

The analysis indicated that Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and geothermal were among the most resilient technologies to extreme weather, followed by diesel, utility PV, wind and distributed PV.

Regional Activity Highlights

FRENZ supported the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) with its GEOBUILD programme, analysing and identifying what's needed to develop and enhance geothermal expertise across the Eastern Caribbean.

FRENZ produced a regional Capacity Gap Analysis and Baseline Report as well as a costed and prioritised Action Plan for 2026–2027 and beyond. The Action Plan now provides OECS GEOBUILD with a clear, practical roadmap to strengthen geothermal readiness. The plan identifies priorities across exploration, drilling, regulation, project finance, environmental safeguards and other critical areas — with approximately US\$6.14 million in indicative actions providing a basis for development agencies' engagement.

SPOTLIGHT

WING takes flight



The first kick-off meeting of the WING Caribbean chapter in early September 2026.

The WING Caribbean chapter has taken flight!

In early September 2026, more than 30 mostly women stakeholders from across the Caribbean and Aotearoa New Zealand renewable energy sectors came together for the kick-off meeting of the Women in Geothermal (WING) Caribbean Chapter. The inaugural chapter meeting brought together women who are already building the region's renewable energy future and the energy and curiosity in the virtual room were clear. FRENZ is excited to support the growth of a regional network with global connections, offering the opportunity for women in geothermal and renewable energy to build relationships, share knowledge and create opportunities.



Dominica's geothermal plant.

New Zealand High Commissioner's Visit to the Caribbean



New Zealand High Commissioner, H.E. Linda Te Puni visited and met with staff and stakeholders at the 10 MW Geothermal Power plant in Roseau Valley, Dominica.

The New Zealand High Commissioner to the Caribbean, Her Excellency Linda Te Puni visited the Eastern Caribbean in June 2026, where she met and connected with the people delivering New Zealand Government-supported technical assistance across the region.

The visit offered a closer look at the work underway, from geothermal development and renewable energy planning to strengthening regional expertise and capacity. It also highlighted the scope of New Zealand's contributions to the Caribbean's energy transition.

For the FRENZ team, the visit was an opportunity to share progress with the High Commissioner as the programme continues its work across the region.