# Kenyan President Pushes for Green Investment in Partnership with U.S.



**Kenyan President Seeks Green Investment During U.S. Visit**

Kenyan President William Ruto plans to initiate a green manufacturing base in partnership with the United States during his state visit to Washington starting May 17, 2024. The initiative aims to enhance Kenya’s clean energy production, build supply chains for batteries and electric vehicles, and attract U.S. companies to invest in renewable energy-powered factories in Kenya.

Kenya’s renewable energy sources, which account for 93% of its electricity, could help American companies reduce their carbon footprints. The project includes plans for a one-gigawatt data center and increased renewable energy generation. Investors, however, advise that regulatory reforms are essential to remove obstacles for stalled power projects.

Ruto envisions Kenya as a hub for industries like apparel and steel production, mineral and metal refining, and green hydrogen manufacturing. The nation is also emerging as a player in carbon removal technologies. A start-up called Octavia Carbon, co-founded by entrepreneurs from Kenya and Austria, will soon launch its first carbon capture plant, aiming to remove 1,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually once fully operational.

If green investments flourish in Kenya and Africa, increased renewable energy development will be necessary to meet the projected rise in energy consumption. Despite difficulties in securing financing, entrepreneurs like Linda Davis, who is working on an ethanol production start-up, are pushing forward.

Meanwhile, large energy companies encounter red tape with power purchase agreements. Ruto states that Kenya must balance supply and demand to avoid wastage. Efforts to streamline paperwork and attract investment are ongoing, led by climate envoy Ali Mohamed, who works closely with Ruto.

The collaboration between Presidents Biden and Ruto highlights the dual focus on addressing climate change and capitalizing on economic opportunities.