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Bhutan s new outdoor power supply market



Overview

With Bhutan's techno-economically viable hydropower potential at 23,000 MW (from 90 sites outside ecological parks), solar at 12,000 MW, wind at 800 MW, and biomass at 2,700 GWh annually, the NEP 2025 sets ambitious targets: 25,000 MW total generation capacity by 2040, including 15,000 MW hydropower and 5,000 MW solar. What is Bhutan's energy supply?

Bhutan's energy supply primarily relies on electricity, fuel-wood, coal, and diesel. Electricity is the largest contributor, with a shift towards increased usage over the years. Fuel-wood usage has decreased, while bio-gas, solar energy, and limited-scale wind energy have gained traction as alternative sources.

Who owns the energy sector in Bhutan?

Bhutan's energy sector operations have separate commercial management and ownership from the government. The state-owned Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) owns and operates power plants while the Bhutan Power Corporation, also state-owned, performs transmission and distribution.

Which sectors are consuming more energy in Bhutan?

It is encouraging to see that the Building Sector's energy consumption decreased, while the Industry Sector's energy consumption grew, and the Transport Sector's energy consumption declined. The Bhutan Energy Data Directory is a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and anyone interested in the energy sector of Bhutan.

How much energy does Bhutan have?

The Directory reveals that Bhutan's total energy supply increased to 793,263.3 tons of oil equivalent (TOE), with thermal energy sources accounting for 62.4 percent of the energy mix and electricity contributing the remaining 37.6 percent.

Does Bhutan have a higher electricity tariff than its cost of supply?

While Bhutan industrial consumers pay a higher electricity tariff than their cost of supply, the rate of Nu 2.66/kilowatt-hour (kWh) (equivalent to ₨3.2/kWh) remains attractive to power intensive industries.

Is Bhutan a power surplus country?

Demand and supply gap. Bhutan has been a power surplus country on an annual basis, but there is a significant shift in seasonal power situation in Bhutan due to the recent changes in surging electricity demand and capacity shortage in the winter period.

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