

Kongres Container

Cuba s solar energy storage policy



Overview

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The Cuban government has unveiled a bold initiative to introduce one thousand megawatts (MW) of solar energy into the National Electric System (SEN) by 2025. This effort, which involves establishing approximately fifty photovoltaic parks across the nation, aims to address Cuba's persistent energy.

These photovoltaic parks are part of a plan presented by the Cuban Ministry of Energy and Mines (Minem) in March 2024, which proposes the installation of a total of 92 photovoltaic parks by 2028, with a total installed capacity of 2,000 MW (Figure 1). 1. Cuba plans to build a total of 92.

The Cuban government has pledged to add 1,000 megawatts (MW) of solar power to the National Electric System by 2025, as part of an expansive initiative that plans to establish around 50 solar parks throughout the island. However, this project faces a significant hurdle: the absence of storage.

Yet Cuba's power outages increased by 23% in 2023 despite adding 450MW solar capacity. What's really going wrong?

Cuba currently operates 186 renewable parks generating 25% of its electricity. But here's the kicker - less than 15% have proper energy storage

systems. "We're basically throwing away.

On Saturday, Cuba initiated the installation of solar energy storage batteries at four electrical substations, marking a significant step in addressing its energy challenges. These Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), also referred to as "concentrator units," are being placed at Cueto 220, Bayamo. Is Cuba facing a severe economic crisis?

Compounding these problems, Cuba is facing a severe economic crisis, with rising inflation, decreased exports, and the introduction of austerity measures. Overcoming these energy challenges amidst the economic crisis will be extremely difficult.

What does the EDF report tell us about Cuba's electric grid?

The report builds on a previous report published by EDF in 2017. That report, similar to this one, provided information on Cuba's electric grid and recommended paths forward.

Is investing in Cuba becoming more difficult?

Investing in Cuba is becoming increasingly difficult," commented user Horus on an article about the issue published on Cubadebate, the country's most-read state news portal. The law could discourage entrepreneurship in small industries or productive areas that typically consume significant electricity.

How much does a 1 KW generator cost in Cuba?

At state-run Copextel retail stores, a basic 1 KW generation module costs 2,551 MLC, pegged to the US dollar. The average salary in Cuba is 4,648 pesos (approximately \$38.70) based on the official exchange rate of 120 pesos to one dollar.

Why has Cuba suffered three blackouts in less than 2 months?

Since 2020, this Caribbean Island nation of 10 million people has struggled to meet domestic electricity demand with its production facilities. The instability of the electrical system has been so evident that Cuba has suffered three nationwide blackouts in less than two months - the most recent on Wednesday, December 4.

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