

Kongres Container

Large-scale solar power generation system in Bhutan



Overview

The roadmap, developed by the Bhutan Energy Research and Development Center (BERDC) with support from the International Solar Alliance (ISA), focuses on deploying large-scale ground-mounted solar PV plants, mini-grids, and rooftop solar systems across the country. What is Bhutan's first solar power project?

The first phase of Bhutan's first utility-scale solar power project at Sephu in Wangdue Phodrang is set for completion by March next year. A utility-scale solar facility generates solar power and feeds it into the grid. The 17.38-megawatt solar farm is expected to generate around 24 million units of energy annually, once operational.

How much solar energy will Bhutan produce?

According to the Renewable Energy Management Master Plan 2016, Bhutan has the potential to generate 12 gigawatts of solar power and 760 MW of wind energy. The first phase of the Sephu solar farm is expected to produce 25 million units of energy, enough to power 3,476 households, assuming an average urban household consumes five kilowatts of energy.

What is the power sector in Bhutan?

Power Sector constitutes about 19 % of Bhutan's GDP and 45 % of its national revenues. Potential in Bhutan is of 30000 MW and it has target of power exports to India of 10000 MW by 2020. Turn your UPSC IAS dreams into reality with Best UPSC IAS Coaching in Bangalore. Expert guidance, comprehensive UPSC IAS coaching, and proven success.

How much electricity does Bhutan import?

Despite Bhutan's main energy source being hydropower, the country imports electricity during the winter and lean seasons. From December 2023 to May 13, 2024, Bhutan imported electricity worth Nu 6.07 billion, a significant increase from Nu 1.75 billion in the same period the previous year.

How big is China's first solar farm in Sephu?

The country's first utility-scale solar farm in Sephu, Wangdue, initially planned at 17.38 megawatts (MW), has increased its capacity to 22.38 MW. The project is divided into two phases. The first phase, which involves constructing 17.38 MW, is scheduled for completion by March of next year.

How much land does yongtru solar project use?

The site for this solar project spans state land, previously used as pasture for grazing cattle in Yongtru and Longmaed villages. Initially planned to use about 65 acres, the project now occupies only 44 acres for the first phase and 19 acres for the second phase, leaving two acres from the original estimate.

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