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Nicaragua joins the solar power generation home



Overview

According to an article by Yahoo News, on June 6, 2025, the state-owned company of the People's Republic of China, Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC), began construction of a solar power plant in Nicaragua as part of a new joint project between the Central American country and China. How much energy does Nicaragua use?

According to the International Energy Agency, Nicaragua supplies around 60% of its total energy from renewable sources, including wind, solar and geothermal, with biomass – an often contested renewable – accounting for the largest share, at roughly 40% of total supply.

Does Nicaragua have geothermal power?

The Maribios Range is part of the Pacific “Ring of Fire” and contains several active volcanoes. The government estimates Nicaragua’s geothermal potential to be 2,000 megawatts. Nicaragua’s National Electric Transmission Company (Enatrel) seeks to transform the country’s energy mix by focusing on renewable energy with its 2022-2037 expansion plan.

What is Nicaragua's energy supply?

“This gives us a guarantee that the project will be carried out in the best way and will ensure its best performance.” Around 60% of Nicaragua’s total energy supply is drawn from renewable sources, with biomass (41.8%) accounting for the largest share of generation as of 2022. The remaining 40% is supplied by oil imports.

Why does Nicaragua lose so much energy?

Local NGOs report that nearly 20% of Nicaragua’s energy is lost due to poor connections and obsolete systems, while many informal connections drive up distribution costs. Furthermore, distributors pay the highest energy prices in Central America, an expense that is ultimately passed on to consumers.

Why are energy costs a problem in Nicaragua?

A 2015 study by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said Nicaragua's energy costs suppress the competitiveness of its industries and the wellbeing of its citizens: higher rates limit access to essential services, increase production costs and hold back economic growth.

Could Chinese investment boost solar power in San Isidro?

In San Isidro, a mountainous and rural municipality in northern Nicaragua's Matagalpa department, Chinese investment is helping to establish solar power – one of the latest arrivals in a wave of new projects announced in recent years, amid closer ties between the two countries.

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