

Foreigners look at Qatar's solar power generation

Does Qatar need solar energy?

On the renewable energy front, Qatar aims for solar energy to constitute 30% of its electricity-generation capacity by 2030. In October 2022 the country's first solar-PV energy project, the 800-MW Al Kharsaah power plant, started operating and now supplies around 10% of domestic peak energy consumption needs.

Can Qatar achieve 20% non-gas energy by 2030?

Qatar has been almost solely reliant on its vast gas reserves for power generation for many decades. A key pillar of the National Vision to achieve 20% non-gas energy by 2030 is energy diversification through investments in photovoltaic (PV) solar energy.

How much solar energy will Qatar have by 2024?

If these solar energy projects come online as expected, about 13% of Qatar's electricity generation capacity will come from solar energy by the end of 2024, with solar capacity totalling 1780 MW out of a total generating capacity of 12 GW.

How much energy does Qatar produce?

The International Renewable Energy Agency stated that Qatar's total domestic energy supply in 2020 consisted of 91% gas and 9% oil, with only 0.02% of the country's energy produced from renewable sources.

How can Qatar achieve a low-carbon energy future?

Qatari policymakers must balance domestic energy needs with the economic imperative to maximise hydrocarbon exports. We have modelled the optimal evolution of Qatar's electricity system over the next few decades, with the goal of quantifying the potential for solar energy (and other low-carbon technologies) in the grid.

How many solar panels are there in Qatar?

Qatar's first major solar energy plant, Al Kharsaah, opened in October 2022 and comprises more than 1.8 million solar panels expected to generate around 2 TWh of electricity per year. Qatar announced a US\$630 million investment in two further solar plants in Mesaieed and Ras Laffan industrial cities.

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