

Japan Microgrid Technology

How will microgrids impact Japan's Energy Future?

As microgrids appear across the country, they will play an increasingly important role alongside the grid system to deliver clean and reliable power. Japan is currently aiming for 22%-24% of its energy to be produced by renewable sources by 2030, which will include 64GW of solar power.

When did microgrids start in Japan?

The first microgrids in Japan were New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization-financed projects initiated in Aichi, Kyoto and Hachinohe in 2003. A variety of energy sources were tested, in particular gas engines, and their success was demonstrated in the years that followed.

What is a microgrid and how does it work?

A microgrid is a type of distributed energy system that enables regional self-sufficiency for electric power through the use of renewable energy, rather than relying on power supply from large-scale power plants.

Why are microgrid systems becoming more popular in Japan?

The success of projects such as Higashi Matsushima eco city has increased the popularity of microgrid systems in Japan. In August 2017, the Cabinet Office announced it would be increasing National Resilience Programme funding by 24%, as of April 2018.

Should Japan invest in microgrids?

Japan's Ministry of Lands, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has started a 'Dam Revitalisation' project that aims to bolster the country's dam network as well as increase power from it." For Japan to move forwards towards greater energy independence, resilience and lower emissions, microgrids appear a clear choice.

Can Japan use small-scale microgrids in other countries?

"Japanese expertise in small-scale microgrids can be applied in other countries," says President Gouzu of Pacific Power Co., Ltd. Mutsuzawa Smart Wellness Town came into the limelight in September 2019, when one of the most powerful typhoons on record made landfall in Chiba Prefecture and triggered a widespread power failure.

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