

Is grid-tied solar a viable alternative energy source in Bhutan?

The commissioning and inauguration of the 180kW grid-tied ground mounted solar photo-voltaic power plant marks the start of Bhutan's investment in grid-tied solar energy as a viable alternative energy source in the face of soaring domestic demand and climate change.

Why should Bhutan invest in solar power?

Like hydropower, sun is a bountiful resource Bhutan can tap into for producing renewable energy in keeping with our carbon neutrality commitments and also for enhancing energy security through diversification of energy sources. The commissioning and inauguration of the 180kW grid-tied ground mounted solar photo-voltaic power plant

Will Bhutan build a mega solar power plant?

One imminent project is the construction of Bhutan's first mega solar power plant, a 17MW plant in Sephu, Wangdue. Today, all of Bhutan's electricity generation is from renewables such as hydropower, wind, and solar. However, 78 percent of the country's energy consumption is supplied by fossil fuels, largely for transportation purposes.

What are Bhutan's upcoming solar projects?

He added that those involved would greatly benefit and take part in Bhutan's upcoming solar projects. One imminent project is the construction of Bhutan's first mega solar power plant, a 17MW plant in Sephu, Wangdue. Today, all of Bhutan's electricity generation is from renewables such as hydropower, wind, and solar.

How many solar panels does Bhutan have?

With 464 solar panels, the 180kW plant will produce 263,000 units of energy a year, which is adequate to meet the electricity supply demands for around 90 households. Director of the Department of Renewable Energy (DRE), Phuntsho Namgyal, said that Bhutan was endowed with 12,000 megawatts (MW) of solar power potential.

Can Bhutan achieve energy security through a diversified energy supply mix?

Inching a step closer to Bhutan's aim of energy security through a diversified and sustainable energy supply mix, a 180-kilowatt (kW) grid-tied solar power plant project was inaugurated yesterday at Ruebisa, Wangdue.

Bhutan Solar Initiative Project (BSIP) set up under Royal Command has implemented two Solar PV Projects in Thimphu. 250kW Rooftop Centenary Farmers Market (CMF) and 500kW Ground mounted at Dechencholing. Both projects are grid-tied, meaning the electricity generated is directly fed into the BPC grid, and are without batteries.

The DSP Solar Initiative aims to enhance Bhutan's energy security, showcase the country's leadership in environmental conservation, prove the technical and economic feasibility of solar power, and encourage its adoption by both public and private sectors.

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The 180kW solar power plant is first of its kind in the country and will trigger transformative changes towards energy source diversification. The community of Rubesa under Wangdue Dzongkhag should be proud to host both solar and wind power plants in the country."

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. Located in the village of Yongtru in Sephu Gewog, the solar project now spans 44 acres, reduced from the originally planned 65 acres.

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Sephu plant will serve as an addition to the 180 kW grid-connected ground-mounted solar photovoltaic power station in Rubesa (near Punakha), which became operational in October 2021. [1] The Sephu plant is currently under construction over an area of 65 acres in Yongtru village, situated in the Sephu Gewog . [2]

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Bhutan Solar Initiative Project (BSIP) aims towards achieving a sustainable energy supply for Bhutan through alternative renewable energy sources of solar grid integration. About 60 De-suups have been actively involved in th is six-month long project and have gained practical knowledge of installing solar PV systems through hands-on experience.

While the COVID-19 pandemic pushes the world towards an unsustainable path that demands corrective measures through green recovery, on October 4, Bhutan inaugurated the 180-kW grid-tied ground-mounted solar photo-voltaic power plant to achieve energy security through a diversified and sustainable energy supply mix.

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