# **SOLAR** PRO. Bulgaria sae renewables

#### Why did Bulgaria start exploring alternative energy options?

As a result, Bulgaria started to explore alternative energy options and sought to diversify its energy supply. This included increased interest in renewable energy sources, as well as efforts to strengthen its energy ties with the EU.

#### Does Bulgaria have a good energy sector?

Bulgaria's energy sector is at a critical juncture, with two main objectives shaping its direction: decarbonization and reducing reliance on Russian energy. Over the past year, Bulgaria has made considerable progress in expanding its renewable energy capacity, particularly in solar power.

#### Does Bulgaria have a green energy plan?

Even though the Plan lengthens the phase out of coal, it still prioritizes the transition to green energy and the construction of solar plants in particular. This should come as no surprise, considering that nearly 75% of Bulgaria's carbon footprint is caused by energy production.

Why is Bulgaria promoting self-sustaining energy solutions?

Bulgaria is also pushing for small- and medium-sized businesses to adopt more self-sustaining energy solutions, including solar energy and battery storage, to reduce dependency on the grid during peak consumption times. Source: IRENA

How has Bulgaria's energy policy changed under Borisov?

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Boyko Borisov,Bulgaria's energy policy began to shift toward closer alignment with the European Union. Borisov's government,which came to power in 2009,was more sceptical of Bulgaria's heavy reliance on Russian energy.

#### Is Bulgaria getting more solar power?

Over the past year, Bulgaria has made considerable progress in expanding its renewable energy capacity, particularly in solar power. Solar energy production has surged from one gigawatt (GWh) in 2019 to more than three GWh today, with solar accounting for nearly half of the country's electric capacity from renewables.

Bulgaria has greenlit 249 proposals for the installation of renewable energy and battery storage capacity worth a total of BGN 526 million (USD 293.1m/EUR 268.9m) to receive funding under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP).

Bulgaria is relying heavily on battery technology and energy storage overall for its energy transition. With the surge in photovoltaic capacity, ambitious plans for renewables as a whole and a collapse in the coal power segment, the country needs urgent grid upgrades as well.

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By the end of 2023, 4,300 MW of renewables had been installed in Bulgaria and with the addition of the new licenses they will reach a total of 5,600 MW. According to Ivanov, with the increase in renewable energy production, Bulgaria''s ...

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Renewable energy is expected to play a critical role in the decarbonisation of the economy of Bulgaria. The country is aiming for renewables to make up 34.7 per cent of its electricity consumption by 2030, more than double its 2020 target of 16 per cent.

Bulgaria launched in mid 2019 its Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Security Program, with an estimated EUR 33 million budget to finance street lighting, geothermal and hydropower utilization, energy efficiency in buildings, and other projects.

Bulgaria is on track to surpass its 2030 renewable energy targets, but investments in modernization are crucial to ensuring that new wind and solar projects are efficiently connected to the grid. Bulgaria is also pushing for small- and medium-sized businesses to adopt more self-sustaining energy solutions, including solar energy and battery ...

Bulgarian energy sector companies have huge potential for development and growth, especially in the field of renewables and innovation, Bulgarian Association of Electrical Engineering and Electronics (BASEL) Chair Dimitar Beleliev said in an interview for BTA.

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At the moment, the country has declared investment intentions for over 15 thousand MW of new renewable energy capacity, half of which could actually be commissioned by 2026. Combined with giga-batteries for energy storage and planned investments in grid improvement and management, this will provide a large amount of cheap, secure and green ...



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