

How can Cuba build a more resilient energy system?

Building a Cleaner, More Resilient Energy System in Cuba recommends numerous ways by which domestic policy in Cuba can prioritize working towards a more sustainable, resilient grid -- especially by investing in the energy transition-- and ways in which international cooperation can support these goals.

Can Cuba develop a solar energy network?

The island enjoys abundant sunshine, which could allow for the development of a strong solar energy network if the government can find enough investment. Cuba recently came to an agreement with a Chinese firm to provide the materials needed to develop several solar farms in return for access to Cuba's nickel deposits.

Does Cuba have an energy crisis?

Cuba has increasingly been falling into an energy crisis, which has plunged its citizens into darkness with uncertainty over the future of the country's energy security. The most recent crisis commenced on the 17th of October when non-essential workers were ordered to go home to help reduce the demand for power.

What happened to Cuba's energy system in October?

For nearly a week in October, most of Cuba suffered near-total blackouts, the worst energy outages in decades. Cuba's energy and mines ministry said "conditions are more favorable now than in the last disconnection" and that the system was gradually being restored.

Does Cuba rely on fossil fuels?

Cuba's power system is currently heavily reliant on fossil fuels. In 2022, fossil fuels accounted for about 95% of electricity generation, and about 48% of the fossil fuels used were imported, putting the country at high risk of price shocks and supply shortages.

How does Cuba rely on oil?

Cuba is dependent on fossil fuels for energy generation and relies on oil imports of crude and fuel oil from Venezuela and Russia, as well as floating power plants provided through an agreement with a Turkish business group.

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Cuba's intention to transition to renewable energy generation is key, as renewables can provide climate change mitigation, reduced local air pollution, and resilience benefits over the current fossil fuel-fired power

generation system.

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At the end of 2021, the implementation of the policy was barely 47% complete, according to Rosell Guerra Campa&#241;a, director of Renewable Energies at the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and although actions have continued to be carried out since then - especially the installation of new photovoltaic parks - the contribution of these sources ...

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The report highlights the issue that not only is Cuba's energy infrastructure in a precarious state of aging and disrepair, but also that its entire energy system relies heavily on external aid and imported fossil fuels.

Over the last decade, renewable energy generation in Cuba peaked at 974 GWh in 2020 but dropped dramatically to 546 GWh by 2023. To meet the 2030 climate agreement targets, Cuba would need to increase renewable generation by more than 8,000 GWh annually.

Outlook for Renewable Energy Sources. The new decree aims to generate decentralized energy, reduce the burden on the state, and lower dependence on imported fuels. Since 2019, when the government issued Decree-Law No. 345 on "the development of renewable energy sources and efficient energy use," this policy has been a priority.

The pandemic has accentuated Cuba's need to diversify and move from oil-generated energy to renewable sources of energy (RES). RES with large potential on the island include solar, wind, biomass (bagasse, agriculture and forestry), and hydropower.

Cuba's transition to renewable energy generation would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, helping to mitigate climate change and reduce local air pollution, while also providing a more resilient source of power compared to the current fossil fuel-heavy power system.

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