

Why is energy important in Iraq?

Energy in Iraq plays a crucial role in both the national economy and the global energy markets due to the country's vast oil reserves and significant status within the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Iraq holds abundant oil and gas resources and has strong solar PV potential.

What is the future of electricity supply in Iraq?

There are a number of pathways available for the future of electricity supply in Iraq but the most affordable, reliable and sustainable path requires cutting network losses by half at least, strengthening regional interconnections, putting captured gas to use in efficient power plants, and increasing the share of renewables in the mix.

How many thermal power plants does Iraq have?

Since 2021, Iraq has started operating three thermal power plants with a combined capacity of 2.6 GW, and Iraq has plans to add 6 GW of new generation capacity by 2025. Iraq also plans to increase the energy efficiency of existing plants and other electric power sector infrastructure.⁶⁴

How does Iraq generate electricity?

Iraq's electricity generation primarily depends on fossil fuels. In 2021, natural gas was the largest source at 57.3% of the total, followed by oil at 36.7%. Renewable energy, mainly from hydroelectric power, contributed 5.9%. As of 2023, the 30 gigawatts (GW) of installed capacity cannot meet summer peak demand.

Why is Iraq's energy system vulnerable?

However the capacity to capture and process this gas has not kept pace. The inability to utilise its gas riches means that the country's gas deficit has grown, and Iraq now relies on imports from Iran to meet increasing demand. This has introduced a number of vulnerabilities to Iraq's energy system.

Is Iraq a good country for solar energy?

Iraq holds abundant oil and gas resources and has strong solar PV potential. Its production to 2030 is set to be the third largest contributor to global oil supply. By the same year, the government expects that renewable capacity will amount for 5% of the country's total system capacity.

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Iraq has struck a major deal with France's TotalEnergies company, bringing in \$27 billion in foreign investment to build up natural resource development and electricity supply. Iraq has long desired greater foreign direct investment. Its new government inherited the work of predecessors and is finally seeing results.

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o Iraq consumed an estimated 2 quadrillion British thermal units of total primary energy in 2021, making it the fifth-largest energy consumer in the Middle East behind Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

In a country with a high carbon intensity for electricity, and where access to reliable electricity remains a priority, the project is a significant contribution to the modernization of Iraq's energy system. We take a look at how it was delivered and the bigger implications for the energy transition in Iraq.

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Iraq is highly dependent on electric power generated using fossil energy sources. Besides this, the gas-burning operations that result from oil refining activities as well as the ageing factories, with their increasing emissions

developing areas. Energy self-sufficiency has been defined as total primary energy production divided by total primary energy supply. Energy trade includes all commodities in Chapter 27 of the Harmonised System (HS). Capacity utilisation is calculated as annual generation divided by year-end capacity x 8,760h/year. Avoided

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The challenge of developing Iraq's prodigious domestic gas resources has thrown the issue of energy independence into sharp relief. For the government of Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, the need is to improve electricity services that could support economic development, improve government services and build better security.

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