## **SOLAR PRO.** Solar hybrid Eswatini

Are solar panels a viable source of electricity in Eswatini?

Photovoltaic (PV) solar cells are increasingly prominent sources of small-scale electricity productionin Eswatini. The government actively encourages the adoption of solar panels in residential and commercial buildings to provide both electricity and water heating.

### Is Eswatini a sustainable country?

A nation that has long relied on neighboring South Africa and Mozambique for unsustainable fossil fuel-based electricity imports, renewable energy in Eswatini is quickly diversifying. The transformative journey culminated at the COP26 conference, where Eswatini committed to an ambitious 50% surge in renewable energy production by 2030.

#### What is Eswatini's energy revolution?

Eswatini's energy revolution is a testament to its dedication to sustainability and self-sufficiency. As Eswatini strides into the future with renewable energy,the convergence of local innovation,international collaboration and growth-oriented policies promises to illuminate every corner of the nation.

## What is the main energy source in Eswatini?

Hydroelectric powercurrently stands as one of the most prominent energy sources in Eswatini. The EEC operates four hydropower plants, constituting 15% of the country's electricity production and plans to bolster the existing infrastructure.

### Why is hydroelectric power important in Eswatini?

Projects such as these conserve millions of liters of fuel throughout their lifetime and ensure year-round reliable and sustainable electrification for public facilities. Hydroelectric power currently stands as one of the most prominent energy sources in Eswatini.

#### Why is Eswatini electrified?

The electrification of Eswatini promises its energy-deprived citizensmore than just basic household power. It heralds a new era of economic expansion, immediately offering job prospects in construction and laying the groundwork for internet-driven startups to flourish.

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Eswatini is one of the leading countries in Southern Africa that has invested substantially in boosting access to electricity, with a national electrification rate of 83 per cent. "This is higher than the average for Africa, which stands at 40 per cent," said the minister.

The Sigcineni Off-Grid Solution project began as a small-scale off-grid pilot study into the use of solar technology to meet rural electrification objectives, especially as some rural communities are far from the national grid and need alternative options.

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