

Does Iraq need solar energy?

Although Iraq tends to promote the country's solar energy in two ways: Utility-scale PV units could lead to a reduction in burning of oil and gas, and rooftop solar panels would help individual households reduce their own dependence on "expensive and polluting neighborhood generators". However, there are a lot in between of untapped distributed

Do solar panels adorn homes in Iraq?

In the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan, solar panels adorn most homes, part of a small but growing effort to harness the sun's energy in Iraq. (AFP) The tranquil silence of Hazar Merd is striking in a country where the roar of large neighborhood generators used to provide back-up power is ever-present.

What is Iraq's solar energy strategy?

Iraq's solar energy strategy should be based on attracting foreign direct investments with strong commitment to diversifying its energy mix and to become energy independent bolstered by its willingness to collaborate with international array of local and foreign partners. Iraq's path forward is not, however, free of potential pitfalls.

How many solar power sites are there in Iraq?

In July 2019, Iraq's Ministry of Electricity invited independent power producers to participate in developing seven PV solar power sites with a combined capacity of 755 megawatts (MW) in the range between 30 MW to 300 MW. Many local and foreign developers saw the announcement as a move forward in an attempt to diversify the country's energy mix.

Will Iraq build a solar power plant?

The region aims to build three commercial solar power plants with a total capacity of 75 megawatts (MW), he added. But that would only represent a small boost to the 24,000 MW that Iraqi power plants produce. To end power outages, the country would need to produce at least 32,000 MW.

Why does Iraq need a solar map?

The solar map will help to identify Iraq's best solar resources, informing and facilitating renewable energy planning across the country. The map has been very important for showcasing Iraq's potential solar resources, key information about land availability, populated areas and grid access.

Iraq has abundant untapped solar resources that could allow it to achieve its target and reduce reliance on imports of electricity. Additionally, the cost of electricity powered by solar energy is lower than that of oil- or gas-fired energy. Iraq's solar plans announced in November 2021 call for the addition of 12 gigawatts of solar capacity ...

An engineer examines solar panels installed on the roof of the Electricity Directorate in Sulaymaniyah in

northern Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region. In a small village in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan, solar panels adorn most homes, part of a small but growing effort to harness the sun's energy in Iraq, where electricity is scarce.

To encourage renewable energy, Iraq's Central Bank in 2022 announced the allocation of \$750 million in almost zero-interest loans for individuals and private companies adopting solar power. But the initiative is ...

Iraq has one of the highest solar irradiation levels in the world, according to a study conducted by the trade association of the German solar energy industry on behalf of GIZ in 2023. The country's abundant sunlight provides the basis for solar energy production.

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By capturing flared gas from three oil fields to power its plants, Iraq hopes to stabilize its electricity network while reducing its energy import expenses. The Basra solar project stands out with its 1.25-gigawatt capacity and the use of bifacial solar panels.

The Iraqi Ministry of Electricity has been aiming at increasing the share of renewable energy in Iraq but was faced with several challenges including the contractual process for utility scale solar energy.

Solar PV: Solar resource potential has been divided into seven classes, each representing a range of annual PV output per unit of capacity (kWh/kWp/yr). The bar chart shows the proportion of a country's land area in each of these classes and the global distribution of land area across the classes (for comparison).

As Iraq continues to struggle to provide electricity to its people, cheap Chinese technology is helping the country, as well as the Kurdistan region, move toward renewables while deepening Beijing's reach in the Middle East.

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To encourage renewable energy, Iraq's Central Bank in 2022 announced the allocation of \$750 million in almost zero-interest loans for individuals and private companies adopting solar power. But the initiative is "stalling due to a lack of cooperation from banks", according to Mohamed al-Duleimi, an expert in renewable energies.

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