

Will Tesla Solar power Ta'u in American Samoa?

Tesla has announced their solar panels are nearly entirely powering the island of Ta'u in American Samoa. The island used to depend entirely on imported diesel fuel for its electricity, but a new initiative has seen the islanders build a 1.4-megawatt microgrid that absorbs and stores solar power for all their energy needs.

Does American Samoa have a solar microgrid?

The island of Ta'u in American Samoa now boasts a solar microgrid from Tesla's SolarCity. Join us in The People v. Climate Change and share an environmental portrait of someone taking positive steps to protect the Earth on YourShot or social media. Use #MyClimateAction to share a first-person perspective on how we as humans face climate change.

How many people live in Samoa?

(The island's population varies with the season but usually falls between 200 and 600 people.) The solar project was installed by SolarCity, a California-based company recently purchased by Elon Musk's Tesla. The \$8 million project was funded by the U.S. Department of Interior and the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA).

What is a church choir in American Samoa?

Ta'u, American Samoa -- On a recent Wednesday evening on the island of Ta'u--one of the outer islands in American Samoa--most of the people in all three villages are at pese--or church choir--practice. The annual island-wide youth group showcases are coming up and each choir senses the pressure of having to perfect their routines.

The switch to solar energy limits costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The microgrid system could save the island almost 110,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually, or about 2.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per year, according to the Post-Gazette article.

Now, the island runs on a completely renewable microgrid that meets 100% of residents' energy needs through solar power and battery storage. In 2016, the founders of Maui, Hawaii-based company Mana Pacific helped design and implement Ta'u's solar-energy microgrid composed of over 5,300 solar panels.

Tesla and Solar City are currently installing an even bigger solar farm with almost 55,000 solar panels on the Hawaiian island of Kauai - and Tesla CEO Elon Musk has declared the companies intend to build hundreds more of these installations.

One is a solar photovoltaic farm to be built near the Veterans Memorial Stadium in Tafuna and the other is a wind energy project in Aasu village. The contractor for the solar project, which has a price tag of \$US43m, is Canadian Solar/Recurrent Energy. It will generate 20 megawatts of electricity.

The best solar panels for residential houses in American Samoa should be able to capture enough sunlight throughout the year to generate sufficient amounts of electricity for your home's needs without requiring too much maintenance over time.

Homeowners in American Samoa looking to switch to solar panels for their residential property should be aware of the costs involved. The good news is that depending on how much energy needs to be generated, there are several options available.

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