

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.

14ymedio, Havana, July 29, 2021 -- In the midst of a pressing electricity shortage, the Cuban government has taken a step demanded by the population to authorize the duty-free import of photovoltaic systems, including parts and pieces of panels that generate energy by direct transformation of sunlight into electricity.

Project leader Felix Morfis, also a representative of Cubasolar - a non-governmental organization promoting renewable energy in Cuba since 1994 - criticizes the high prices of solar panels and bureaucratic hurdles in obtaining loans to purchase them. "It seems the government has no real interest in people installing solar panels.

Large consumers in the residential sector could find in the installation of solar panels a way to offset the amount of their energy bill through cogeneration for self-consumption or receive a payment for injecting clean energy into the national power grid.

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5 ???· The Cuban government promotes solar panels as a quick and efficient solution to change the country's energy matrix. However, the context reveals that this initiative serves more as a distraction from the inefficiencies in the ...

"There are 26 photovoltaic solar parks that are currently in different phases of construction in all the provinces, which means an enormous constructive effort for the country", stressed Alfredo López Valdés, general director of Electrical Union, ...

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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Cuba's large-scale blackouts that left 10 million people without power this month wouldn't have happened if the government had built out more solar power to boost its failing electric grid as promised, some experts say.

3 ???· The Patio El Triunfo project, located in the capital's Regla municipality, is an example of a private business that is self-sufficient in renewable energy sources. It has installed photovoltaic panels with a generation of 10 kilowatts (KW), as well as solar heaters and dryers, and a 0.5 KW wind turbine.

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Solar energy potential in Cuba is high when considering that the country's geographic position can enable a generation of 5kWh per square meter - about the average daily usage of one household. Although solar energy projects have thus far been limited to remote areas, capacity has increased considerably in recent years.

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