

Can solar power plants help Bhutan achieve energy security?

The solar plant in Rubesa is one such initiative which takes Bhutan a step closer to achieving energy security through a diversified and sustainable energy supply mix. The project particularly demonstrates viability of solar power plants on a utility scale.

Is grid-tied solar a viable alternative energy source in Bhutan?

The commissioning and inauguration of the 180kW grid-tied ground mounted solar photo-voltaic power plant marks the start of Bhutan's investment in grid-tied solar energy as a viable alternative energy source in the face of soaring domestic demand and climate change.

Why should Bhutan invest in solar power?

Like hydropower, sun is a bountiful resource Bhutan can tap into for producing renewable energy in keeping with our carbon neutrality commitments and also for enhancing energy security through diversification of energy sources. The commissioning and inauguration of the 180kW grid-tied ground mounted solar photo-voltaic power plant

How is Bhutan achieving energy security?

Bhutan is undertaking various initiatives to broaden its energy mix by exploring other clean, renewable energy sources. The solar plant in Rubesa is one such initiative which takes Bhutan a step closer to achieving energy security through a diversified and sustainable energy supply mix.

Can a solar power plant boost hydropower supply in Bhutan?

“Solar plant such as this can augment hydropower supply to meet our rapidly increasing domestic electricity demand, especially in winter months,” he said. Electricity in Bhutan is mostly generated from hydropower, a renewable energy source, unlike fossil-fuel driven power plants that are major contributors to carbon dioxide emissions worldwide.

Who inaugurated a solar photo-voltaic power plant in Bhutan?

On October 4, 2021, the Chairperson of the National Council of Bhutan, Lyonpo Tashi Dorji, inaugurated the 180kW grid-tied ground-mounted Solar Photo-Voltaic Power Plant at Rubesa, Wangdue Phodrang.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the country's first mega solar power plant with a capacity of 17.38-megawatt was held in Sephu, Wangdue yesterday. The plant, which is expected to complete by the end of 2024, will occupy 65.49 acres in Yongtru village.

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The 180kW solar power plant is a first of its kind in the country and since its commissioning has been generating and feeding electricity into the local grid for distribution. The solar plant, co-located with the existing 600 kW wind farm at Rubesa, is expected to generate 263,000 units of energy/year, which will be adequate for supplying ...

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A utility-scale solar facility generates solar power and feeds it into the grid. The 17.38-megawatt solar farm is expected to generate around 24 million units of energy annually, once operational. Located in the village of Yongtru in Sephu Gewog, the solar project now spans 44 acres, reduced from the originally planned 65 acres.

It also lays out plans to build 1,226 MW of solar projects. With Tala, Chukha, Mangdechu, Basochu, Dagachu, Nikachhu and Kurichu the current power generation capacity of the country stands at 2,452.7 MW, which is 6.7 percent of the total estimated hydro-power potential of the country.

According to the BSIP, the implementation of the solar project brings benefits to the energy sector of Bhutan by diversifying electricity generation sources, in addition to hydropower, and adding energy security to the country. The implementation of solar PV systems, as a climate mitigation effort, have a significant positive impact on the ...

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided over \$18 million in grants and loans to support the project, with an additional \$1 million from the Government of Bhutan. This initiative will contribute 17 megawatts of clean energy to Bhutan's power grid, bringing the country closer to achieving full energy independence.

While the COVID-19 pandemic pushes the world towards an unsustainable path that demands corrective measures through green recovery, on October 4, Bhutan inaugurated the 180-kW grid-tied ground-mounted solar photo-voltaic power plant to achieve energy security through a diversified and sustainable energy supply mix.

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This research determined that Bhutan has the total potential to develop 3 gigawatts (GW) of solar power based on the utilization of about 7,100 acres of suitable land. The study also identified Tenchhekha, near the capital city of Thimphu, as a potential solar power plant location, with a capacity of 4.85 MWp that could be built on 17.49 acres ...

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