

How will a new solar plant help Macedonia?

Andi Aranitasi, EBRD Head of North Macedonia, said: "The new solar plant will help the country, which faces severe air pollution from coal, to reduce its reliance on ageing coal-fired infrastructure. It will also generate cheap electricity in times of very high market prices.

How much solar power does North Macedonia have?

Solar power Built on a former lignite open pit mining site, North Macedonia's Oslomej solar park will have an installed capacity of 120 MW when fully completed. © Ciril Jazbec

Who built the first solar plant in North Macedonia?

The 10MW solar plant, built on the site of the spent Oslomej lignite coal mine, was constructed by the public company JSC Elektrani na Severna Makedonija (ESM). This is the company's first solar plant in North Macedonia, developed with a view to diversifying energy sources and supporting decarbonisation.

What is the energy supply in North Macedonia?

ENERGY PROFILE North Macedonia ENERGY PROFILE Total Energy Supply (TES) 2016 2021
Non-renewable (TJ) 93 548 92 443 Renewable (TJ) 19 952 22 166 Total (TJ) 113 500 114 609 Renewable share (%) 18 19 Growth in TES 2016-21 2020-21 Non-renewable (%) -1.2 -3.0 Renewable (%) +11.1 -0.5 Total (%) +1.0 -2.5 Primary energy trade 2016 2021

How much electricity does Macedonia produce?

ESM, a public electricity generation utility owned by the government of North Macedonia, provides 90 per cent of the country's domestic electricity production - about 3,600 GWh from two thermal power plants and 1,250 GWh from eight hydropower plants.

What are the decarbonisation plans in North Macedonia?

Decarbonisation plans in North Macedonia are taking a big leap forward. The European Union (EU) is supporting ESM, the state-owned electricity company, to implement a 30 MW photovoltaic (PV) project consisting of 10 MW on a portion of the exhausted coal mine of thermal power plant Oslomej, and 20 MW adjacent to the thermal power plant Bitola.

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After a 45 MW facility in Bosnia and Herzegovina entered a trial phase, Mey Energy announced that it has finished its 55 MW solar power plant in the municipality of Novaci in North Macedonia, in the heart of the

country's coal industry.

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"The huge sustainable energy potential of North Macedonia, especially through wind and solar energy, is an enormous opportunity for the country, which is important in the advancement of the Green Agenda", emphasized Holger Schröder from the European Commission's Directorate for Neighbourhood Policy (DG NEAR).

The Slovenian Gen-I Group has inaugurated a solar power plant with an installed capacity of 12 MW near Kavadarci, North Macedonia. This facility is expected to generate up to 15,500 MWh of electricity annually, significantly contributing to the country's decarbonization efforts.

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).

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