

Is solar a reliable energy source in Bhutan?

The pilot grid-tied solar project at the UN House will demonstrate solar as a reliable energy source and serve as a key driver of energy source diversification in Bhutan. The UN House in Thimphu inaugurated its 83 KW grid connected rooftop solar, a first of its kind in Bhutan, and the 20 KW solar-thermal space heating projects on 8 March 2021.

How much does solar energy cost in Bhutan?

The UN House in Thimphu inaugurated its 83 KW grid connected rooftop solar, a first of its kind in Bhutan, and the 20 KW solar-thermal space heating projects on 8 March 2021. Built at a total cost of USD 99,000, the investment works out to USD 1192/KW installed capacity and is comparable to the costs of other conventional energy sources.

Will UNDP pilot a net metering system in Bhutan?

UNDP is currently in the advanced stages of discussion with the Bhutan Electricity Authority, the regulatory authority on electricity systems in Bhutan and Bhutan Power Corporation Limited on piloting a net metering system of the solar project.

Where is the UN House solar project located?

The solar project is housed at the Wind Farm in Rubesa and is expected to be commissioned by June 2021. The UN House initiated its first solar project- a Solar Walkway- in 2017, which generates 1,225 KWh monthly and the energy generated is stored and used to light the UN House premises.

What is a pilot solar PV system in Wangdue Phodrang?

It builds on the 180 KW Pilot Grid-Tied Ground Mounted Solar PV System being installed in Rubesa, Wangdue Phodrang. The pilot project in Rubesa is being implemented by the Department of Renewable Energy (DRE), Ministry of Economic Affairs, and BPC in partnership with UNDP.

Is Bhutan a carbon-negative country?

"Bhutan is already carbon-negative, but here in the UN, we are going beyond net-zero by rigorously promoting electric vehicles and renewable energy, notably solar energy.

Bhutan has an average solar irradiation of about 4.2 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/d and solar irradiance of about 0.75 W/m<sup>2</sup>. However, district-wise solar radiation and irradiance data will be used for approximation purposes. Thus, the approximation for national rooftop solar PV potential is closer to the actual measured value.

Currently, as part of a pilot project, the department is installing rooftop solar power systems in about 300 rural households of Dagana, Pema Gatshel and Lhuentse. Rooftop solar power systems have electricity-generating solar panels mounted on the rooftop of a building.

This study analyses the prospects of a feed-in-tariff program for solar PV systems in Bhutan. It is based on the analysis of a pilot project covering 361 households in rural areas of Bhutan.

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The DSP Solar Initiative (DSP-SI), in its first phase, successfully commissioned a 250 kW rooftop solar power plant at the Centenary Farmers Market on May 29, 2023, and a 500 kW ground-mounted solar power plant at Dechencholing on June 9, 2023.

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The 250kW Solar rooftop project was launched on 05 June at the Centenary Farmers Market (CFM), Thimphu coinciding with the occasion of World Environment Day. The 500kW ground mounted grid-tied Solar PV project was launched on June 28, 2023 at Dechencholing, Thimphu.

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# National rooftop solar Bhutan

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