



# Free energy solution Western Sahara

What is the Sahara Solution?

Image Credit: Wikipedia On a global scale, the "Sahara Solution" represents one of the most ambitious concepts for large-scale solar power generation. The vast Sahara receives about 2,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of solar irradiance per square metre annually, making it one of the sunniest regions on the planet.

Can solar power be harnessed in the Sahara?

For perspective, the sun delivers an mind-blowing 173,000 terawatts (TW) of solar energy to Earth continuously, more than 10,000 times the world's current energy consumption. A study published in the journal Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews explores the feasibility of harnessing solar power from the Sahara.

Is Morocco dependent on Western Sahara for its energy supply?

But these developments have made Morocco partly dependent on Western Sahara for its energy supply. Morocco already gets 18% of its installed wind capacity and 15% of its solar from the occupied territory, and by 2030 that could increase to almost half of its wind and up to a third of its solar.

Could the Sahara be transformed into a solar farm?

In fact, around the world are all located in deserts or dry regions. It might be possible to transform the world's largest desert, the Sahara, into a giant solar farm, capable of meeting the world's current energy demand. Blueprints have been drawn up for projects in and that would supply electricity for millions of households in Europe.

Could large solar farms in the Sahara Desert redistribute solar power?

Large solar farms in the Sahara Desert could redistribute solar power generation potential locally as well as globally through disturbance of large-scale atmospheric teleconnections, according to simulations with an Earth system model.

How much solar power does the Sahara receive a year?

The vast Sahara receives about 2,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of solar irradiance per square metre annually, making it one of the sunniest regions on the planet. Covering just 1.2 per cent of the Sahara with solar panels could generate enough electricity to power the entire world.

Nevertheless, questions over energy policy in a future free and independent Western Sahara remain. While an end to the Moroccan occupation and full decolonization are integral to a Saharawi just transition, the SADR government's ability to ensure popular sovereignty over Western Sahara's energy resources will also be of fundamental importance.

Here we use state-of-the-art Earth system model simulations to investigate how large photovoltaic solar farms



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in the Sahara Desert could impact the global cloud cover and solar generation ...

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Western Sahara is very sunny and surprisingly windy - a natural renewable energy powerhouse. Morocco has exploited these resources by building three large wind farms (five more are planned) and...

The initial stages of another renewable energy project has been launched in the disputed Western Sahara region, which is under the control of Morocco. The Janassim project recently launched its measuring campaign of solar and wind energy potential.

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