

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.

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.

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

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.

Why did Shingkar Bumthang drop a solar power plant?

In 2021, the first planned mega solar power plant, a 30 megawatt, in Shingkar Bumthang was dropped because the community refused to give clearance for various reasons. The plant was expected to generate 46.19 million units of energy annually with an annual revenue generation of Nu 233.725 million.

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.

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.

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The DSP Solar Initiative aims to enhance Bhutan's energy security, showcase the country's leadership in environmental conservation, prove the technical and economic feasibility of solar power, and encourage its adoption by both public and private sectors.

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The Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTF) is the world's first environmental trust fund, established on 6th March 1991 as a collaborative venture between the Royal Government of Bhutan, United Nations Development Program, and World Wildlife Fund.

Bhutan Solar Initiative Project (BSIP) set up under Royal Command has implemented two Solar PV Projects in Thimphu. 250kW Rooftop Centenary Farmers Market (CMF) and 500kW Ground mounted at Dechencholing. Both projects are grid-tied, meaning the electricity generated is directly fed into the BPC grid, and are without batteries.

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Sephu plant will serve as an addition to the 180 kW grid-connected ground-mounted solar photovoltaic power



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station in Rubesa (near Punakha), which became operational in October 2021. [1] The Sephu plant is currently under construction over an area of 65 acres in Yongtru village, situated in the Sephu Gewog . [ 2 ]

