

Solar solutions for home Tokelau

Can Tokelau support itself with solar energy?

Tokelau, an island nation in the South Pacific, is now completely able to support itself with solar energy. Elly Earls met Joseph Mayhew of the New Zealand Aid Programme to find out how this tiny collection of atolls has become almost 100% self-sufficient in less than 12 months.

How much electricity does a solar system provide in Tokelau?

Each system alone is among the largest off-grid solar power systems in the world, and together they are capable of providing 150% of current electricity demand in Tokelau, a much higher amount than the 90% that was originally planned for.

How do solar panels work in Tokelau?

All three islands have solar installations based on a cluster design, with multiple clusters connected in parallel to reach the required capacity (Table 2). In the case of Tokelau, the three-phase cluster design incorporates a combination of alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC) bus charging.

Why did Tokelau switch to solar?

Yet despite the challenges involved in installing comprehensive solar systems in such a remote location, switching to solar was absolutely crucial for the tiny collection of islands. "Tokelau's atolls are low-lying and especially susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change," Mayhew stressed.

What are the characteristics of solar installation in Tokelau?

Solar installation characteristics Source: Provided through communication by Government of Tokelau (2012). Where Ah is Ampere-hour; V is volts. 48 V 6 400 Ah (or larger) battery at C20 discharge rate (Figure 4). Thus each cluster represents 33 kWp of solar.

How does a three-phase solar cluster work in Tokelau?

In the case of Tokelau, the three-phase cluster design incorporates a combination of alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC) bus charging. The AC bus component includes 20 kWp of solar driving seven SMA Sunny Boy 3000 inverters.

Tokelau achieved 100% solar power, eliminating its reliance on diesel generators. The Tokelau Renewable Energy Project (TREP) was funded by New Zealand and the United Nations. Switching to solar power significantly reduced Tokelau's carbon footprint. Community involvement and education were key to the project's success.

RES: 1MW off-grid solar energy system across three main atolls of Tokelau. The project includes : 4032 solar modules, 196 string inverters, 112 DC charge controllers, 84 battery inverters and 1344 batteries in 48V banks. The system allows ...



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When Tokelau decided to switch to renewable energy, people thought critically about the options. They decided that solar energy could be a cost-effective option well-suited to Tokelau's climate. Over four thousand solar panels were installed, making Tokelau the first nation in the world to convert to 100 percent renewable energy. Technology

The Tokelau International Trust Fund was formed in 2004 by the Governments of Tokelau and New Zealand with the aim to support the long-term financial sustainability of Tokelau; today the fund has a value of approximately NZD 70 million (USD 58 million)^{2,1}. Tokelauan handicrafts are highly detailed and provide some

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The 4,032 solar panels (with a capacity of around one megawatt), 392 inverters, and 1,344 batteries provide 150 percent of their current electricity demand, allowing the Tokelauans to eventually...

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Solar Array's seen on the three tiny islands of Tokelau to completely produce solar power energy. The renewable energy system comprising of solar panels, storage batteries and generators running on biofuel derived from coconut will generate enough electricity to meet 150% of the islands' power demand.

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