

California solar energy romania

Today, Romania is one of the most promising markets for renewable energy in Europe. A number of international players have planned or already begun large-scale projects in solar and wind energy segments, as well as energy storage. The portfolios of many players have already exceeded a total capacity of 1 GW. Particularly, a giant leap has been seen in solar energy.

However, in the race for record-setting capacities, one should not forget about creating added value within the country. Sooner or later, the plans for construction, in line with Romania's energy system capabilities, will be achieved, and the boom period will sharply change to a market decline with all the corresponding negative consequences for most of its participants.

We have already seen this in several European countries and even in California -- the center of renewable energy development in the USA. In particular, after April 1, 2023, when new net metering rules came into effect in California, about 80% of companies in the solar energy segment either went bankrupt or were on the verge of bankruptcy.

The ultimate beneficiaries of such market changes will only be the large generating companies. I don't want to say that this is bad. It's just a natural market process.

However, if the government is interested in the comprehensive development of the industry, it should also pay attention to the related manufacturing. On the path to a green transition, this has immense strategic significance: reducing dependence on imported equipment.

Also, one should not forget about the potential creation of tens of thousands of new jobs. Especially since Romania has a number of geographical, economic, and resource advantages over many European countries.

Recent news regarding joint projects between Romania and Azerbaijan in the energy sector is a great confirmation of this. I am confident that the construction of gas terminals and the laying of cables along the bottom of the Black Sea for the sale of Azerbaijani green electricity to Europe is just the beginning.

It also makes sense to build new gas storage facilities in Romania, which other nations, like Ukraine, could use as outsourcing capacity after its gas infrastructure became a top target for Russian missile strikes in March.

But let's get back to renewable energy. Last year, two major international equipment manufacturers for renewable energy, German AE Solar and American Enphase Energy, announced their plans to start production in Romania.



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Thanks to a partnership with the outsourcing manufacturing giant Flex (the company is also headquartered in California), Enphase Energy began production of microinverters in the second quarter of 2023 at its plant in Timișoara.

The AE Solar project, worth 1 billion euros, is still in the design stage. The company applied last year for a 15 million euro grant under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (part of the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility).

Additionally, Attila Keresztes, a Hungarian businessman, founded Sunflower Hundred, which applied for a 20 million euro grant to build a solar module plant in Romania (in Turnu Magurele).

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