

Clean electricity addis ababa

Ethiopia wants to become a major player on the African energy scene. The Ethiopian government wants to implement a 10-year plan to produce and export green electricity to the Horn of Africa and the whole of East Africa. As part of this strategy, Addis Ababa expects to invest \$40 billion in 71 renewable energy projects.

The plan is ambitious for this East African country, which has an installed capacity of 4,965 MW according to Power Africa. But this capacity is expected to double with the commissioning of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which will have a capacity of 6,450 MW. The Ethiopian government will continue to develop its hydroelectric infrastructure as part of its new plan. Addis Ababa plans to build 16 hydropower dams in the coming years.

Wind power will be an important part of the Ethiopian government's plan. Twenty-four wind power projects will be implemented in the coming years. Ethiopia is just beginning to develop its wind energy potential, with the first project being implemented about 150 km south of the capital Addis Ababa, near the town of Iteya in Oromia Regional State. The Assela wind farm, built by Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, will have a capacity of 100 MW.

Ethiopia also plans to expand its installed solar energy capacity, with at least 14 projects over the next 10 years. This country in the Horn of Africa is lagging behind in solar energy production. Ethiopia is not yet producing solar energy on a large scale, although the first projects will be developed under the Scaling Solar programme of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector financing arm of the World Bank Group.

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Addis Ababa, May 12, 2024 (FBC) - Ethiopia emerged as a standout performer in a recent global study focusing on countries with the cleanest energy grids, underscoring its significant progress in transitioning to renewable energy sources. The study, conducted in 2023 by OilPrice , highlighted Ethiopia's position as the fifth-ranked nation with an impressive 98.1% of its electricity generated from clean sources.

The report showcased Ethiopia's commitment to harnessing its abundant natural resources, including hydropower, biomass, solar, wind, and geothermal energy. As the largest producer of hydropower in Africa, Ethiopia relies heavily on this energy source, which contributes approximately three-quarters of the country's electricity. Notably, the Omo-Gibe River Basin plays a crucial role in Ethiopia's hydropower production, accounting for about 45% of the total output through three major dams.

Despite facing challenges due to past underinvestment in its energy sector, Ethiopia has set ambitious targets

to expand its installed generation capacity. Currently standing at 5,200 MW, the government aims to increase this capacity to 17,000 MW within the next decade.

Ethiopia's ranking in the study reflects its dedication to embracing renewable energy sources and aligning with global efforts to combat climate change. The country's inclusion among the top performers underscores its pivotal role in the green transition and sets a positive example for sustainable energy practices in the region and beyond.

Joining Ethiopia in the list of top countries with the cleanest energy grids are Nepal, securing the fourth spot with 98.4%, and Lesotho, an African nation, standing strong in third place with an exceptional 99.3%. Bhutan's second-place ranking at 99.8% highlights its dedication to harnessing renewable energy. Topping the list is Paraguay with a perfect score of 100%, exemplifying its remarkable achievement in establishing a clean energy grid.

These countries collectively demonstrate the global momentum towards decarbonization and the increasing importance placed on renewable alternatives. Their success serves as inspiration for other nations to accelerate their green transition efforts and contribute to a more sustainable and greener future for all.

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