

## El salvador solar energy for the environment

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The energy sector in El Salvador has experienced significant growth in recent years, positioning the country as a regional leader in the transition to renewable, cleaner, and more sustainable sources.

According to statistics from the Latin American Energy Organization (Olade), El Salvador has experienced a 160-fold increase in its solar power generation capacity from 2015 to last year, marking a significant transformation towards energy self-sufficiency.

The data also goes in sync with those presented by the General Directorate of Energy, Hydrocarbons and Mines (DGEHM), which indicated that during 2023, photovoltaic plants generated around 539,067.71 megawatt hours (MWh), which represented 7.13 % of the Salvadoran energy matrix.

The dynamism of the sector is reflected in the number of projects executed in recent years. In the last year, for example, more than 35 photovoltaic projects were registered between private and public, which supply the energy demand of 500,000 Salvadoran homes (estimated in one year).

The institution also estimates that the considerable investment of a company in a solar plant could mean savings of up to 50% in the energy bill, with recovery periods of approximately five years, while the useful life of a solar panel is around 20 years.

Recently, the president of the Comisi?n Ejecutiva Hidroel?ctrica del R?o Lempa (CEL), Daniel ?lvarez, informed that as part of the commitment to renewables, this year they will continue with the construction of projects, among them the second photovoltaic plant of the State, which will be located in the Central Hidroel?ctrica 15 de Septiembre.

According to the official, the plant will be built on CEL's land, specifically on the land of the Hydroelectric Power Plant. The photovoltaic project, which would be the second one executed by the Bukele administration, is expected to generate around 20 megawatts (MW) installed with solar panels.

"We already have the feasibility, we have everything to launch the project. [We are currently seeking financing so that construction can begin in the next few months," he reaffirmed.

This would join the Talnique Solar plant, operated by Inversiones Energ?ticas (INE), which has an installed capacity of 17 megawatts thanks to the 29,600 bifacial solar panels placed on a 19-block plot of land.

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multiple economic industries.

The Export and Investment Promotion Agency of El Salvador PROESA, together with the Ministry of Economy, MINEC, and the Spanish company Ecosolar, inaugurated a new photovoltaic plant in El Salvador, an important energy project for the country, especially at a time of economic recovery.

IZALCO, El Salvador, Nov 28 2024 (IPS) - With machete in hand, Salvadoran farmer Dami?n C?rdoba weeds the undergrowth covering the trunk of what was once a leafy tree to show the deforestation taking place on the Santa Adelaida farm, where a company seeks to install a solar park in western El Salvador.

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