



Libreville solar energy

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Gabon has opened its first utility-scale solar plant - the largest in Central Africa. Developer Solen SA Gabon has said it aims to expand the project's capacity to 30 MW to power more than 300,000 homes.

Gabon has inaugurated its first utility-scale solar project. The PV plant is located in the Plaine-Ayeme area of northwestern Gabon, around 30 km from the country's capital, Libreville.

Solen SA Gabon, a subsidiary of Solen Renewable Dubai, built and operates the project, with an initial capacity of 11 MW, according to local media outlet L'Union.

The plant, announced in 2021, faced delays and reductions in funding after construction began in August 2022. Initially planned as a 120 MW project split into two 60 MW phases, it was scaled back during development.

At the inauguration, President Brice Oligui Nguema highlighted the project as a symbol of the nation's commitment to sustainable development and climate action.

"It is indeed an important milestone in the production and distribution of clean, sustainable and modern electricity, thus illustrating our country's commitment to improving access to energy and the fight against climate change," he said.

Gabon's electricity mix currently relies on hydropower (47.7%), natural gas (35%), oil (16.9%), and biofuels (0.3%), according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The country reported just 1 MW of installed solar capacity at the end of 2022, unchanged since 2021, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

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Once completed, the renewable energy facility will supply power to the country's national grid which is



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managed by the state water and power utility, Societe d'energie et de l'eau du Gabon (SEEG).

The solar energy plant is expected to mitigate roughly 59,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions a year, and help improve energy access in the Central African nation.

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