



Mexico city solar energy for the environment

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The solar project at the Central de Abasto, Mexico City's massive Central Market, was designed as the most emblematic renewable energy program in Mexico City. The 18MW solar plant is fundamental to the climate action program led by Mexico City's Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum.

Last year, Mexico City's government announced that it began the works for the construction of the Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Plant at the Mexico City Central Market in March 2022. The allocated resources for this project come from the Energy Transition Fund and Sustainable Exploitation of Energy (FOTEASE) of the country's Ministry of Energy (SENER).

According to Fadlala Akabani, Minister of Economic Development, Mexico City's Ministry of Economic Development (SEDECO), this project is part of the capital city's government commitment to the clean energy transition. Moreover, the project is part of the Solar City concept, whose goal is to provide Mexico City with the possibility of growing as a power producer by implementing clean and renewable sources of energy.

Akabani reported that the cost of the project amounted to MX\$600 million (US\$27.25 million), including making the market's roofs waterproof, which was necessary for the installation of the solar system. He further explained that panels were designed individually due to the differences between each rooftop and can withstand extreme climate conditions.

According to the Ministry of Economic Development (SEDECO), the project overseen by CFE was implemented in two stages. The first consists of two Distributed Generation (DG) solar systems on the roof of storage units and is set to start operating in 1H23. The second phase corresponds to the 18MW PV project that will produce 25GWh of clean energy for the market. Its installation began in May 2022 to be completed by the end of 2023.

Mexico City's climate change action program drives sustainable mobility, improves air quality, provides value for the environment and is set to generate no waste at all. Solar City is based on four benchmarks, including enhancing electricity generation from DG projects, solar energy for SMEs, training technicians and workers as well as boosting the adoption and development of electromobility technologies.

Akabani also highlighted the importance of promoting Mexican-made products for the value chains close to the city's green projects. "We continue working on the installation of solar panels on top of public buildings and have collaborated with many companies for the installation of PB panels. We boosted close to 100 companies in the field of electromobility. We also recently inaugurated a Metrobus line running a fully electric fleet," he added.



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Akabani also discussed the opportunities that nearshoring represents for the country and underlined the government's commitment to take advantage of this development. He recognized the need to further develop an industry for lithium batteries and energy storage, highlighting the government's decision to boost this industry through the new state company, LitióMx.

Mexico City celebrated a groundbreaking moment in sustainable energy generation with the inauguration of the world's largest urban solar panel installation atop the Central de Abasto (CEDA). Spearheaded by Mayor Martí Batres, this initiative underscores Mexico's commitment to renewable energy development and environmental stewardship.

The plant, the world's largest installed on the roof of a public market, is part of the city's Environmental and Climate Change Program, with an investment of MX\$600 million (US\$35 million). It is poised to generate up to 25GWh of clean energy annually, benefiting residents and businesses in the Iztapalapa municipality.

Spanning 21ha and comprising 32,000 solar panels, the installation boasts 18MW capacity, making it a standout feature on the city's skyline. Moreover, the initiative is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 11,400t annually, contributing to Mexico's climate change mitigation efforts.

At the inauguration ceremony attended by Energy Minister Miguel Ángel Maciel and CFE Director Manuel Bartlett, the project was heralded as a beacon of economic development and social responsibility. Bartlett praised the installation as a symbol of the government's commitment to social and technological progress, highlighting Mexico City's leadership in sustainable energy initiatives.

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