

Senegal solar energy for the environment

The construction and operation of two independent solar PV plants totaling up to 79 MWp (60MWac) under the World Bank Group's Scaling Solar program, located in Kahone and Touba, Senegal. Nearly 540,000 people in Senegal will get access to clean and affordable power following the launch of two solar photovoltaic (PV) plants, financed by IFC, the ...

Senegal's commitment to environmental preservation and sustainability is closely related to the growth of solar energy in that nation. Senegal is moving away from fossil fuels in favour of solar energy, which helps to reduce air pollution as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

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The power sector is the key enabler for Senegal's sustainable development. The country's electricity mix is dominated by heavy fuel oil (HFO), which accounted for 70% of total electricity generation in 2022. In recent years, renewable energy has overtaken coal, with wind and solar power accounting for 21% of generation in 2022.

Dakar, June 1, 2021 - Nearly 540,000 people in Senegal will get access to clean and affordable power following the launch of two solar photovoltaic (PV) plants, financed by IFC, the European Investment Bank and Proparco, under the World Bank Group's Scaling Solar program.

Senegal's significant efforts to develop its energy sector and deliver energy access to more people are laying important groundwork for the country to achieve its broader economic objectives, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

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Based on consultations with a wide range of energy stakeholders and analysis of the latest energy data, the report identifies areas in which Senegal is seeing success, such as in expanding reliable and affordable electricity access, and provides recommendations to support the government's vision for sustainable development, which hinges on achieving further energy progress.

Energy Policy Review of Senegal 2023 was launched at an event in Dakar by IEA Deputy Executive Director Mary Warlick and Cheikh Niane, the Secretary General of Senegal's Ministry of Petroleum and Energy. Rita Madeira, the IEA's Africa Programme Officer, presented its key findings.

"I welcome the conclusions of the review, which generally align with our analysis regarding the relevance of the directions taken by the Government of Senegal in the energy sector," Mr Niane said. "It also confirms the significant achievements in terms of strengthening the electrical system, promoting renewable energies, expanding universal access to electricity, and establishing a governance framework in line with the best standards."

The IEA and Senegal have fostered close collaboration in recent years. The partnership was further strengthened when Senegal joined the IEA Family as an Association country in June 2023. Both parties have demonstrated a strong commitment to work together closely on critical energy and climate issues.

Since the launch of the Plan Sénégal 2025, Senegal has adopted reforms designed to attract foreign investment in its energy sector and boost participation from the private sector, while leveraging significant support from development finance institutions. The report finds that the stability of the country's institutions has helped increase investment flows, although more will be needed to meet Senegal's ambitions.

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Web: <https://www.hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

