



Solar industry saudi arabia

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In March 2018 Saudi Arabia announced that together with Softbank they plan to install 200 GW of solar power through 2030. This compares to a global solar power installation of 100 GW in 2017 and a total installed capacity of 77 GW in Saudi Arabia in 2016. This project was cancelled in September 2018.

The National Renewable Energy Program (NREP), backed by the Public Investment Fund (PIF), outlines plans for 11.8 GW of renewable energy projects in collaboration with ACWA Power by 2025, subject to approval from the Ministry of Energy. This initiative aligns with the goal of generating 50% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

In 2011, The United States and Saudi Arabia jointly set up a solar-research station in Al-Uyaynah village. The village, located about 30 miles northwest of Riyadh, had no electric supply at the time. The station is operated by the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology. The agency established an experimental assembly line at the site to manufacture solar panels. The equipment on the assembly line was imported from Europe, and the solar cells are imported from Taiwan. The line's capacity was quadrupled within a year.

Saudi Arabia has been implementing solar energy projects since the early 1960s. In addition to its 3,281 MWh producing photovoltaic solar rooftop, Saudi Arabia created the world's biggest solar parking lot, with a capacity of 4500 cars. Furthermore, it houses the largest thermal plant that provides hot water for nearly 40,000 students at Princess Noura University for Women.

As of 2023, Saudi Arabia is still trailing other wealthy countries in solar power capacity rankings, ranking 45 worldwide, despite being one of the top countries in solar potential. Oil and gas still make up most of Saudi Arabia's power mix, with 0.5% of the mix being solar power.

With a goal of sourcing 50 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030, the Kingdom is investing heavily in solar energy, capitalizing on its abundant sunlight.

This commitment is part of the broader National Renewable Energy Program strategy, aimed at diversifying its energy portfolio and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

By the end of the decade, Saudi Arabia aims to generate 58.7 gigawatts of renewable energy. This includes 40 GW from solar photovoltaics, alongside 16 GW from wind energy and 2.7 GW from concentrated solar power.

In 2024, Abdulaziz bin Salman, the Saudi minister for energy, announced plans to tender new renewable



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energy projects with an annual capacity of 20 GW. This could potentially lead to a total capacity of 100-130 GW by 2030.

A significant milestone was reached on June 26, 2023, when the Saudi Power Procurement Company signed power purchase agreements for three new solar PV projects totaling 5.5 GW.

These are Haden Solar PV in Makkah Province with 2,000 megawatts, Al-Muwayh Solar PV in Makkah Province with a further 2,000 MW, and Al-Khushaybi PV in Qassim Province with 1,500 MW.

Another is Rabigh Solar PV Park at Rabigh Industrial City in Makkah region, which generates 400 MW, and Jubail 3B IWP Solar PV Park which produces 45.5 MW, powering the Jubail 3A water desalination plant in Eastern Province.

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