

## Tirana renewable energy storage

In 1925, Italian designer Armando Brasini created a sweeping masterplan to transform the Albanian capital city of Tirana. Almost one hundred years later, the Tirana 2030 (TR030) Local Plan by Italian firm Stefano Boeri Architetti has been approved by Tirana City Council. Collaborating with UNLAB and IND, Boeri seeks to define a new era in the country's capital, incorporating controlled development, advanced infrastructure, green corridors, and an enhancement of the city's architectural heritage.

TR030 will see major investment in Tirana's public infrastructure and services. New high-speed rail links from the city center will connect the airport and sea terminal. A congestion charge will aim to reduce private motor transport, with emphasis being placed on shared mobility and electric/hybrid public transport. Twenty new public schools will be built to act as neighborhood hubs, whilst a cluster of new urban squares around the historic Boulevard Dëshmorët e Kombit will play host to cultural activities and facilities.

Using the natural environment to enrich the city is an important aspect of TR030. To prevent urban sprawl, an orbital forest of two million new trees will encircle Tirana, dictating that new development takes place along historic central paths. The plan will see a tripling of green space in the city center, through two green rings suitable for walking and cycling, and a large natural oasis around Lake Farka.

Rivers flowing through the city will become blue corridors of regeneration and biodiversity. Along the Elbasan-Krrabe Valley a green corridor will enable the production, storage, and distribution of renewable energy to feed the city's growth.

The General Local Plan of Tirana expresses the future of a polycentric and Kaleidoscopic Metropolis, which will host in each part a rediscovered balance between the city and nature - Stefano Boeri Architetti

Having won an international competition hosted by the Albanian government in 2015, the Local Plan will seek approval from the National Council in early 2017. Watch the full video explaining the ideas behind Tirana 2030 below.

Albania's energy sector has made more progress in the last year than in the previous ten. A day-ahead electricity market was launched by the power exchange ALPEX in April 2023. The balancing market is operational and organised competitively. All consumers in Albania are free to choose their supplier; as of 1 January 2022, consumers connected to 20 kV, 10 kV and 6 kV entered the liberalized market. The country aims to be a fully independent net exporter by 2023.

Investments in energy efficiency are currently being channelled through the state budget and foreign financial aid, with a particular focus on the buildings sector. These initiatives are subsidized, with up to 50% of the costs financed by the Municipality of Tirana. Furthermore, local banks are actively promoting energy



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efficiency by offering credit lines for various measures, primarily focusing on enhancing the thermal insulation of building envelopes in private buildings.

Director of Law Department and Lecturer in the Field of Business and Energy, Tirana Business University (TBU). Adviser in Energy Policy & Law, Regulation and Infrastructure high-level projects in Albania.

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Photovoltaics could offer peak generation at times of the year when the nation needs it most, says IRENA, but plenty will have to be done, including upgrading an aging grid and training an army of installers and building energy auditors.

With some 95% of its electricity powered by hydro in 2018, Albania can lay claim to a high proportion of renewable energy in its power mix-even if the poor environmental record of recent small scale facilities has worsened the high-risk perception of clean power investment among local lenders.

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

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

