

Abu Dhabi electricity generation

Energy in the United Arab Emirates describes energy and electricity production, consumption and import in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE has 7% of global proved oil reserves, about 100 billion barrels.¹; Primary energy usage in 2009 in the UAE was 693 TWh and 151 TWh per million persons.²;

The UAE is currently transitioning from an electricity generation system nearly 100% powered by gas power plants (2010) to 100% powered by solar, other renewables and nuclear in order to substantially reduce its carbon emissions. It is also rolling out electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

In June 2010 UAE had 6th top global proved oil reserves, about 100 billion barrels, behind Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait. The crude oil production of UAE was more than 4 and less than 5 million barrels daily.¹;

UAE has 7th top global proved natural gas reserves, above 6 trillion cubic metres. The global gas production in 2009 was 3 trillion cubic meters.¹;

The UAE has massive solar generation potential, and its energy policy has shifted substantially due to the declining price of solar. The Dubai Clean Energy Strategy aimed to provide 7% of Dubai's energy from clean energy sources by 2020 and planned to increase this target to 25 per cent by 2030 and 75 per cent by 2050.⁵; The country, however, generated only 3,8% electricity from solar in 2020, reaching the target three years late.⁶;

UAE is planning to generate half of its electrical energy by 2050 from solar and nuclear sources, targeting 44% renewables, 38% gas, 12% clean coal, and 6% nuclear energy sources.¹⁴;

The UAE intends to introduce electrification into the vehicle park. By 2030, the UAE wants to have 40.000 electric cars on its roads.¹⁵; As of September 2020, there were only 1.900 electric cars registered in the UAE.¹⁶;

The Abu Dhabi Department of Energy (DoE) has launched the Abu Dhabi Energy Outlook 2050, the first comprehensive blueprint mapping a bold net-zero vision for the emirate and promoting a just and equitable transition, ahead of COP28 UAE.

His Excellency Awaidha Murshed Al Marar, Chairman of DoE, said: "This outlook presents an ambitious vision towards our green goals and positions Abu Dhabi as a global beacon of sustainable development moving towards a zero-carbon society. Crucially, the scenarios outlined in the outlook – maintaining current policies, closing the gap for net zero in 2050, embracing a full technological shift



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paradigm – are designed to inspire sustainable change and shape the net-zero transition, without prescriptive measures.

“The outlook shows that we can address the emissions gap, meet our net zero 2050 targets, and develop a climate-neutral economy that gives everyone the sustainable environment they deserve without sacrificing the prosperity of the state or the individual.”

The outlook illustrates what Abu Dhabi’s transport, buildings, industry and power sectors might look like under ambitious policies and technology advancements aimed at accelerating the pace of decarbonisation in all sectors over the next three decades. It aligns with the COP28 Net-Zero Transition Charter, which aims to mobilise all sectors of the economy and society to commit to a national pledge of reducing carbon emissions and producing a credible net-zero transition plan.

Abu Dhabi has deployed decarbonisation policies and regulations including Clean Energy Targets 2035, Regulatory Policy for Clean Energy Certificates, Policy for Energy Production from Waste, Regulatory Policy for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, District Cooling, Recycled Water Policy, Demand Side Management Strategy, as well as important position papers related to hydrogen and market reforms.

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