

Armenia solar pv

Solar energy is widely available in Armenia due to its geographical position and is considered a developing industry. In 2022 less than 2% of Armenia's electricity was generated by solar power.^[1]

The use of solar energy in Armenia is gradually increasing.^[2] In 2019, the European Union announced plans to assist Armenia towards developing its solar power capacity. The initiative has supported the construction of a power plant with 4,000 solar panels located in Gladzor.^[3]

In 2018 the amount of solar power produced in Armenia increased by nearly 50 per cent. Government figures show that Armenia's solar power average is 60 per cent better than the European average.^[1]

Currently 9 solar PV plants (total installed capacity - about 7,02 MW) have been put into operation. 7 companies (totally 31,5 MW) have been licensed for the construction of the solar PV plant with up to 5 MW installed capacity.^[12]

As of February 20, 2019, technical terms were given to 907 autonomous energy producers with capacity up to 500 kW (total capacity 12,9 MW), 854 of which have already been connected to energy system (total capacity 10,3 MW).^[12] Example of buildings equipped with solar panels are the American University of Armenia generating enough power for the elevators and other uses, and the UN House in Armenia.^[13]

A 55 MW utility-scale solar power plant will be built near Mets Masrik in Gegharkunik province, requiring an investment of about \$50 million. International tender was won by consortium of the Netherlands' Fotowatio Renewable Ventures (FRV) B.V and Spain's FSL Solar S.L. that are expected to commission the plant in 2020.^[14]^[12]

There are defined tariffs for generating electricity using solar energy. In November 2016, Public Services Regulatory Commission of RA made a decision to set the price of electrical energy from photovoltaic systems to 42.645 AMD/kWh.

Consumers are allowed to install solar panels with total power of up to 150 kW, and may sell any surplus to electricity distribution company Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA).^[15]

In Armenia, solar thermal collectors, or water-heaters, are produced in standard sizes (1.38-4.12 square meters).^[16] Solar water-heaters can be used for space heating, solar cooling, etc. In order to generate heat, they use solar energy from the Sun. Modern solar water heaters can cause water to boil even in winter.^[17]



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Solar thermal collectors are used throughout the territory of Armenia. One building using solar thermal collectors is AUA, which uses solar cooling and ventilation systems. The biggest solar water-heater in Armenia is located at Diana hotel in Goris, which has 1900 vacuum tubes that provide hot water for a swimming pool with 180 cubic meter volume, and for 40 hotel rooms.

This is the first competitively-tendered solar-photovoltaic project in Armenia and it will be the first utility-scale solar power plant in Armenia, which is also the first for the Caucasus. IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the European Union (EU) have signed on to support the development of the plant, and the electricity produced will be sold via a power purchase agreement with the utility Electricity Networks of Armenia.

Masrik Solar Farm is currently under development having reached financial close in July 2020. The construction is programmed to take place in 2021-2022 with first operations expected by the end of 2022.

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