

Kinshasa = electricity generation

Revised in September 2023, this map provides a detailed view of the power sector in DR Congo. The locations of power generation facilities that are operating, under construction or planned are shown by type - including liquid fuels, natural gas, coal, hybrid, hydroelectricity, solar PV and methane.

An inset shows the Inga hydroelectric power (HEP) projects in detail, with notes. Two other small insets show in greater detail Kinshasa and the region to the north east and the area south of Lake Kivu.

Existing and future transmission and distribution lines are shown ranging from 132kV and under to 500kV+. Actual and planned cross-border interconnectors are also shown including lines to Angola, Congo B, Tanzania and Zambia.

The African Energy Atlas is the essential reference book for all energy professionals working in Africa, with maps, graphics and articles covering all aspects of the energy sector.

Electricity can be generated in two main ways: by harnessing the heat from burning fuels or nuclear reactions in the form of steam (thermal power) or by capturing the energy of natural forces such as the sun, wind or moving water.

Unlike other energy commodities such as coal, oil and natural gas, electricity trade between countries is relatively limited as it is more technically complex and requires a direct cross-border interconnection. Such connections can help to balance out supply and demand across regions, which will be increasingly important as variable renewables like solar and wind make up a larger share of electricity generation.

Power generation, which includes electricity and heat, is one of the largest sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels like coal and natural gas in thermal power plants.

Growth in electricity demand has slowed down or even reversed in many advanced economies due to energy efficiency efforts and the shift towards less energy-intensive forms of economic activity, such as services. But it is still growing rapidly in many emerging market and developing countries, especially those where a significant fraction of the population still lacks access to electricity.

Electricity is primarily used for heating, cooling, lighting, cooking and to power devices, appliances and industrial equipment. Further electrification of end-uses, especially transportation, in conjunction with the decarbonisation of electricity generation, is an important pillar of clean energy transitions.



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