



Off grid solar system in ghana

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Policies and ethics

There are two major ports at Tema near Accra and Takoradi in the west and a major port for cocoa and tropical timber. It has also become the major centre for the offshore oil and gas industry.

Ghana became independent from Britain in 1957 although its legislative council dates from the 1920's and internal rule from 1952. It was the first country in Africa to become independent and today is one of the most democratic countries in Africa with frequent changes of government. The parliament is dominated by 2 political parties both of whom have controlled the parliament and presidency over the last 30 years.

With consumption growing at 7% per annum and hydro in decline this led to load shedding in 2014 to 2015 and severe effects on the economy. "Dumsor" as it was known in Ghana forced the government to turn to alternative sources of power and independent power producers (IPP) came "to the rescue".

By contrast only 50% of rural areas have access to grid power. This is far better than most African countries but it does mean that the potential for economic development is significantly reduced in the rural areas. A large percentage of the people is unable to benefit from electricity and subsequently unable to contribute to economic growth and their own standard of living.

The grid system is expensive to maintain and any extension of it to the villages especially in the north is expensive to build and the customers at the end of the line are not substantial and their extreme poverty means government has to subsidise the power they need.

The growth of renewables over the past year including the Governments own plans have slowed down because of the commitment to the IPP's. The only utility solar farm remains the development near Winneba.

Offgridinstaller of Britain and Ghana can fill another gap in the Ghana renewable market – OFFGRID SOLAR. Whatever the future power situation, Offgrid allows the owner to be independent of the grid and to control his own "energy destiny". Storage batteries have fallen dramatically in price and now have a life span of 15-20 years. Equally the panels continue to be cheaper, have a higher output and a lifespan of 40 years. If offgrid is combined with energy saving, every enterprise, every organisation and every home can go offgrid.



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