



Philippines bin tesla powerwall

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Tesla has deployed its Powerpack batteries to the Philippines, helping a local solar company construct a 2MW/2MWh micro-grid for the town of Paluan, which has been suffering from notorious power outages for years. The project went online back in December, giving the town round-the-clock electric power for the first time.

To complete the project, Tesla partnered with local renewable energy company Solar Philippines. According to a report from Energy Storage News, Solar Philippines believes that the 2MW/2MWh will be enough to provide reliable power to the town's residents 24 hours a day, at 50% less than the usual electricity costs. A 2MW diesel generator is on standby as well, ready to provide extra power when the need arises.

Solar Philippines founder Leandro Leviste believes that the Powerpack installation in Paluan would be the first of many renewable solutions in the country. The Solar Phils. executive further noted that "there is no reason" why other towns in the country would not follow suit, considering the cost benefits offered by solar-battery installations.

The benefits of the solar-battery system are notable. Thanks to the 2MW/2MWh micro-grid, the town's residents were able to experience a Christmas absent of power outages for the first time. Schools in the area have also begun using computers. An ice plant, which would support the local fishermen, is also being planned. The town's residents aired their gratitude to Solar Phils. and Tesla in a recent photograph, proudly declaring that there are no more power outages in the area since the batteries and solar arrays were installed.

Tesla's Powerpack systems have become game changers for areas with unstable electricity. Over the past few months, Tesla's 100 MW/129 MWh big battery near Jamestown in South Australia had helped the region's beleaguered energy grid hundreds of times, at one point even providing backup energy after a coal-powered plant unexpectedly experienced a power loss in December. Tesla had also announced other, more ambitious projects for the country, such as a 250 MW/650 MWh virtual power plant involving 50,000 residential units and Tesla Powerwall 2 batteries.

As we noted in a recent report, however, Tesla's initiatives in South Australia are currently hitting roadblocks from the government, with newly-elected premier Steven Marshall stating that he would not support the company's virtual power plant initiative. LNP senator and Minister for Resources Matt Canavan also dismissed Tesla's efforts, calling the Powerpack farm near Jamestown the "Kim Kardashian" of energy.

The first solar-plus-storage microgrid in Asia to use Tesla's Powerpack energy storage system is designed to end power reliability issues for a Philippines community, long used to losing light and productivity to brownouts.



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The launch of 'Solar Para Sa Bayan', an initiative by SolarPhilippinesfounder Leandro Leviste to bring cheaper, more reliable power to areas poorly served by utilities, was marked by the execution of a project utilising 2MW of PV panels manufactured by his company, 2MWh of Tesla's Powerpack lithium-ion industrial and grid-scale battery storageand 2MW of diesel backup.

It is designed to supply reliable power 24 hours a day, over the entire year, at 50% less than the full cost of the local electric supply.According to Solar Philippines, local energy supply will no longer have to be subsidised by the state to the tune of over PHP30 million (US\$577,000) annually.

Since 2014, the National Power Corporation (NPC) has been supplying power to Paluan, but only for 16 hours out of every 24, which was nonetheless a step up from four hours per day previously.

Leviste said that there was no reason this type of solution could not be rolled out to 'every other town in the Philippines'. The company has also submitted plans in more urbanised regions to provide power, this time at a potential saving of around 30% on existing electricity costs, it claims.

This includes a 5,000MW proposal to replace all planned coal plants with solar-plus-storage. Solar Philippines has built its own solar panel factory in Batangas with around 800MW capacity, building up to 2GW. As an integrated developer, investor, EPC and now manufacturer, the company has 700 employees and 300MW of PV projects under construction or already completed.

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