

# Solar plant in ghana northern region

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The Bui Power Authority (BPA), the body responsible for managing the Bui hydroelectric dam, will build eight solar power plants in northern Ghana, including the sites of Yendi in the Northern Region, Buipe and Sawla in the Savannah, Zebilla and Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region. The project with a total capacity of 259 MWp will start in the first quarter of 2022 and aims to generate 700 MWp of solar energy by 2024. The sites were selected because of their proximity to Ghana Grid Company (GridCo) substations in the north of the country.

With the collaboration of the Sunyani Renewable Energy University in the Bono region, BPA is engaged in several renewable energy projects including a 404 MW hydropower plant, a 250 MW onshore solar power plant. In addition, a 45 kW micro-hydro plant was recently commissioned in Tsatsadu. The company's ambition is to increase the capacity of floating solar energy production by exploiting the Bui dam reservoir.

Affected by problems of access to clean energy, Ghana like other countries in the region is embarking on renewable energy. To achieve this quickly, the Ghanaian organization responsible for the management of the Bui hydroelectric dam is working to reach the global climate target. In this sense, the BPA intends to reduce methane emissions that contribute to global warming and produce energy from renewable sources such as wind and solar that does not emit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

The Kaleo solar power plant was inaugurated on 23 August 2022 at a ceremony attended by the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. The solar park is being built on a 20.4 hectare site in the Nadowli Kaleo district of northwestern Ghana. The Ghanaian head of state had also visited this locality for the groundbreaking ceremony of the facility in February 2020.

The Kaleo solar plant has a capacity of 13 MWp. The Volta River Authority (VRA), which initiated the project, plans to increase its capacity to 28 MWp. The electricity generated by the new solar plant is fed into the grid of the state-owned Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo) from the 161 kV Wa substation 15 km away.

"The project will boost tourism in the Kaleo community and provide a destination for educational and technological excursions in the region. It will help promote the advancement of science education, engineering and technological activities in the region, and expand the career opportunities of our youth," said President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in his speech at the inauguration ceremony of the new solar power plant.

The Kaleo plant was launched at the same time as the Lawra plant. "At peak sunshine hours, the Kaleo and Lawra plants can meet the entire load of Wa and its environs. This can make Wa the greenest city in Ghana. The completion of the Kaleo solar plant is in line with Ghana's nationally determined contributions to combat the effects of climate change," says the Ghanaian president.



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The Lawra solar plant, with a capacity of 4 MWp, is built on a 6.13 hectare plot of land. The cost of the two solar parks is estimated at 25 million dollars. The VRA is financing the work with a loan from the Kreditanstalt f?r Wiederaufbau (KfW), the German development agency.

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