

# São Tomé and Príncipe commercial solar energy system

Is there a solar power plant in Sao Tome & Principe?

Also on the island of Príncipe, there are plans to develop a 4.5 MWp solar photovoltaic plant. Currently, the rate of renewable energy production in the energy mix in Sao Tome and Principe is 5% from the Contador hydroelectric plant with 1.9 MW.

Does Sao Tome & Principe have electricity?

The World Bank says Sao Tome and Principe has an electricity access rate of around 76%, with 92% of the total coming from imported diesel. The government has vowed to increase the proportion of renewable energy from 5% of the energy mix to 50% by 2030. This content is protected by copyright and may not be reused.

Will Sao Tome & Principe get a 2 MW solar project?

The island nation of Sao Tome and Principe switched on the initial phase of its first 2 MW solar project in August. Construction of 1.4 MW of PV capacity is now underway at two airports, and developers plan to install a total of 1.7 MW by 2023.

When will a 300 kW power plant be installed in Sao Tome?

Cleanwatts told pv magazine that it started developing 1.1 MW at Sao Tome airport and 300 kWp at Principe airport in August. It expects to complete the arrays by the end of this year. Another 300 kWp will be installed next year at other communities in Sao Tome.

Is EMAE dragging down the economy of Sao Tomé & Príncipe?

The troubles afflicting utility EMAE are dragging down the economy of the island nation. The United Nations Development Program is seeking consultants to conduct feasibility studies for a 2 MW solar project and three mini hydropower plants ranging in size from 1.15-2 MW in São Tomé and Príncipe.

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São Tomé and Príncipe, an island State off the west coast of Africa, is the continent's second smallest country, with a population of around 225,000 (World Bank, 2023) and an area of less than 900 square

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peri-urban areas. Since the colonial era, STP has been supporting its renewable potential ...

"As of 2020, the Government of Sao Tome and Principe is planning for the hybridization of one of the main thermal power plants (Santo Amaro) with solar photovoltaic technology through the Energy Transition and Institutional Support

(NREAP), the grid system in São Tomé and Príncipe has losses of around 33%, of which 11% are technical losses, and the remaining 22% are commercial losses (EMAE 2019). The NEEAP states that the STP government aims to reduce the total grid losses to 30% by 2030 and 8% by 2050, limiting technical losses to 5% and commercial losses to 3%.

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São Tomé and Príncipe is verging on a breakthrough ocean thermal energy project that could pave the way for other nations. In April, the small island nation in the Gulf of Guinea granted UK-based firm Global OTEC approval for the island's first commercial-scale ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) platform.

This platform is designed to provide information and updates about São Tomé and Príncipe's upcoming solar procurement initiatives. As the country transitions toward renewable energy, we aim to create transparent and competitive processes to attract qualified international investors, ensuring long-term energy sustainability.

Solar energy, with its strong decentralized potential, is an energy potential for Santomeans in rural and peri-urban areas. Since the colonial era, STP has been supporting its renewable potential and intends to intensify its use, particularly hydro energy.

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São Tome and Principe has been working in collaboration with UNIDO, the World Bank, UNDP and other organisations to implement renewable energy projects in the country. The most advanced renewable energy project currently is the Santo Amaro solar photovoltaic power plant with 2.2 MWp, which is expected to be operational in early 2022.



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