

Why is solar power important in Chile?

Solar power in Chile is an increasingly important source of energy. Total installed photovoltaic (PV) capacity in Chile reached 8.36 GW in 2023. Solar energy provided 19.9% of national electricity generation in Chile in 2023, compared to less than 0.1% in 2013.

Is there an alternative to solar energy in Chile?

Chile has begun to explore an alternative. Both Cerro Dominador and the Alba Project are powered by so-called solar salts, extracted from the Atacama Desert, composed of potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate. When melted and kept in a liquid state, they allow energy to be stored.

How much does a solar power plant cost in Chile?

Because of its good solar resource several international companies have bid record low prices for solar thermal power plants in Chile, including the Copiapó Solar Project bid at \$63/MWh by SolarReserve in 2017. If realized this would have been the lowest ever price for a CSP project in the world.

Why are solar panels important to Chile's green hydrogen industry?

Solar panels pictured in Chile's Atacama Desert are crucial to the country's green hydrogen industry. Chile has set an ambitious goal of converting 70% of its total energy consumption to renewables by 2030 and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Does Chile have a solar thermal tower?

Chile's Atacama desert is home to the only solar thermal tower in Latin America. The imposing 240-meter construction is one of the pillars of the country's ambitious green energy program that began in 2019 and aims to completely replace fossil fuels by 2040.

How can public-private partnerships accelerate Chile's energy transition?

Public-private partnerships have been key in accelerating Chile's energy transition, especially when it comes to the country's green hydrogen market. Green hydrogen, a clean energy source that splits water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity, sits at the heart of Chile's energy transition.

The solar thermal Cerro Dominador, which Chileans compare to Sauron's tower from The Lord of the Rings, has become a symbol of Chile's energy revolution against climate change.

Last December, Chile's centre-right government published the country's first energy transition strategy, which provided targets for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, including accelerating solar, wind and geothermal

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Chile has more than 3,500 isolated rural communities with no access to energy networks, many of them lacking access to roads and infrastructure to maintain the flow of fossil fuels. Solar energy has now started to play a greater role in the energy matrix of the country.

trade body expects Chile to install 2.9GW of solar PV, continuing the country's expansion in renewables. Chile is home to one of the highest irradiation regions in the world, the desert of Atacama, with "around 60 to 70% of solar PV" capacity so far installed in the regions of Atacama and Antofagasta,

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Solar PV in Chile is facing a twofold issue: on the one hand, the ever-increasing curtailment of generation; on the other, the reduction of income due to low prices of electricity with...

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