

# Integrating solar power into the grid Eswatini

Are solar panels a viable source of electricity in Eswatini?

Photovoltaic (PV) solar cells are increasingly prominent sources of small-scale electricity productionin Eswatini. The government actively encourages the adoption of solar panels in residential and commercial buildings to provide both electricity and water heating.

#### What is the Eswatini Energy Programme?

The Eswatini Energy Programme is a five-project initiative for the electricity sector in Eswatini. It includes both mitigation and adaptation components. The programme will help Eswatini reduce its carbon footprint by replacing carbon-sourced fuels with low-emission sources in its national energy balance.

#### Can solar power help Eswatini achieve its electrification goals?

Although Eswatini's electrification rates are relatively high, they are still a long way off 100% (the country's target for 2022). Solar power is the most viable solution for Eswatini to help meet its electrification goals and save costs down the line.

What is the main energy source in Eswatini?

Hydroelectric powercurrently stands as one of the most prominent energy sources in Eswatini. The EEC operates four hydropower plants, constituting 15% of the country's electricity production and plans to bolster the existing infrastructure.

#### What is Eswatini's energy revolution?

Eswatini's energy revolution is a testament to its dedication to sustainability and self-sufficiency. As Eswatini strides into the future with renewable energy,the convergence of local innovation,international collaboration and growth-oriented policies promises to illuminate every corner of the nation.

### Why is USL partnering with Eswatini's national grid?

USL's connection to Eswatini's national grid now contributes 31% of local grid-electricity production, pivotal in the country's impressive 32% point increase in electricity access between 2011 and 2021. To electrify the whole population, Eswatini initiated the Partnership for Affordable Renewable Energy in Swaziland (PARES) in 2018.

Rijkenberg revealed that the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority had approved the implementation of a 75MW Solar PV, 13.6MW Lower Maguduza hydro power plant, 33MW Maguga Expansion and Lower Maguga Hydro Power Plants.

Mbabane - Eswatini Electricity Company invested E260 million on a well-equipped solar power plant at Lavumisa in the quest to combat the thorny issue of energy insufficiency in Eswatini. The solar plant is built

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in a 35 hectares land at Qomintaba, an area situated at Lavumisa under Matsanjeni South Inkhundla and it was built using the profits ...

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The Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) has confirmed that the construction of projects in line with the 75MW Solar PV generating capacities will begin at the end of 2024. This follows announcement last month by ESERA of its intention to award contracts to preferred bidders for 75MW Solar PV generation capacities in line with Section ...

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In his opening speech, the newly appointed Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Prince Lonkhokhela, highlighted renewable energy projects under development through Public Private Partnerships. This entails 75MW solar power plants and a 40MW of biomass power capacity, with commissioning planned for 2025 and 2026 respectively. The minister ...

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In the context of evolving energy landscapes, embedded solar generation emerges as a key component of future-ready power systems. By integrating solar power generation directly into homes, businesses, and industrial operations, embedded generation empowers energy users with greater control over their electricity needs.



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