

What is Nepal's solar and wind energy development?

We categorize Nepal's solar and wind energy development in four phases. Nepal can harness up to 47,628 MW of solar and 1,686 MW of wind energy. The Annapurna Conservation Area has more than 60% of Nepal's wind energy potential. Energy policies need to go beyond small-scale systems to utilize these potentials.

How much solar energy is available in Nepal?

Nepal has a total annual solar energy generation capacity of 57,519 GWh with a total installed capacity of 47,628 MW, considering the land-use discount factor of zero (Table 2). This potential is about 7.4 times the total energy available in the national grid in 2020 (i.e., about 7741 GWh) [81].

How much energy does Nepal produce a year?

Nepal has the potential to produce 79,704 MW of hydroelectricity, generating an average of 569,964 GW-hours (GWh) of energy per year [25]. In addition to hydropower, solar and wind energy can also contribute to meeting the rapidly growing electricity demand, mainly by providing an optimum energy mix for a stable supply.

How is solar and wind energy potential analyzed in Nepal?

Thus, we have carried out a spatial and economic analysis of solar and wind energy potential at the provincial level for the first time in Nepal. Our analysis is built upon the spatial energy modeling based on technical, geographical, and economic suitability criteria, utilizing open-source geographical information system platforms.

Are solar and wind power plants possible in Nepal?

Possibility of solar and wind power plants Our study highlights that Nepal has an abundant resource of solar energy (i.e., up to 47,628 MW) and a relatively lower potential for wind energy (i.e., up to 1686 MW) compared to that of other developing countries (e.g., Bangladesh [10] and India [11]).

Does Nepal need high-resolution data on solar and wind energy?

For example, our analysis is based on global datasets and despite being it is high-resolution data, proper ground validation of this data is missing. Thus, Nepal needs to generate national high-resolution data on solar and wind energy by measuring and monitoring these resources at different locations in the country.

Solar PV: Solar resource potential has been divided into seven classes, each representing a range of annual PV output per unit of capacity (kWh/kWp/yr). The bar chart shows the proportion of a country's land area in each of these classes and the global distribution of land area across the classes (for comparison).

About 1.1 million solar home systems, rated at nearly 30 MWp, have been installed across Nepal. With the

introduction of net metering by the Nepal Electricity Authority, an increase in rooftop photovoltaics (RPV) is expected.

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Spatial distribution of solar (top) and wind (bottom) energy potential in seven provinces of Nepal in installed capacities. Only locations with minimum installed capacities of ...

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