

Why are Syrians using solar panels?

Cut off from the power grid and with fuel costs soaring, Syrians in a poor, embattled enclave have turned en masse to solar panels to charge their phones and light their homes and tents. Solar panels covering rooftops, some of which have been damaged in government attacks, in Binnish, Syria.

Where are solar panels located in Syria?

Solar panels, big and small, old and new, are seemingly everywhere in Idlib Province along Syria's border with Turkey, rigged up in twos and threes on the roofs and balconies of apartment buildings, perched atop refugee tents and mounted near farms and factories on huge platforms that rotate to follow the sun across the sky.

Is there a solar revolution in Syria?

An unlikely solar revolution of sorts has taken off in an embattled, rebel-controlled pocket of northwestern Syria, where large numbers of people whose lives have been upended by the country's 10-year-old civil war have embraced the sun's energy simply because it is the cheapest source of electricity around.

How much does a barrel of fuel cost in Syria?

By the time the Islamic State lost its last patch of territory in Syria in 2019, the northwest was importing fuel from Turkey that was much purer but cost more than twice as much, now about \$150 for a 58-gallon barrel of Turkish diesel, compared with \$60 for a barrel from eastern Syria a few years ago.

Locals value the solar panels in Syria despite a high initial investment cost. In interviews with The New York Times, many locals described the panels as "god-sent." After the initial investment, solar panels are a virtually cost-free source of electricity.

A government report published last year said the war had inflicted 6.1 billion Syrian pounds (US\$2 billion) of direct and indirect damage on a power grid that once covered 99 per cent of Syria.

The recent installation of solar panels is bringing about positive changes in the Syrian Arab Republic. The use of renewable energy sources, such as solar power, is improving access to clean water and health care services for the residents.

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