

How much solar energy does the Vatican produce a year?

Thanks to a unique photovoltaic plant installed on the roof of the Vatican Audience Hall, the Papal State has been producing 300 MWh of solar energy every year since its installation in 2008. The project was planned and managed by BayWa r.e. with the PV modules, inverters and its installation donated by solar technology provider, SolarWorld.

Why did Pope Francis embrace solar power?

In Fratello Sole, Pope Francis roots the decision to embrace solar power in his own invitation "to all mankind," in the encyclical *Laudato si'*, to make lifestyle changes to counter global warming and the "pervasive" use of fossil fuels.

How can the Vatican save CO₂?

In the heart of the Vatican, we converted 2,134 m² of idle roof space into a source of green renewable energy. The energy produced by this plant is directly fed into the Vatican's grid, helping to save around 225 tons of CO₂ each year.

The construction of the agrivoltaic plant has been entrusted to the President of the Governorate of Vatican City State, Cardinal Fernando Vázquez Alzaga, LC; and the President of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See, Archbishop Giordano Piccinotti, SDB.

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In 2016, during the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI, he approved the installation of 2,400 solar panels on the roofs of the Paul VI Hall as part of his goal to make the Vatican the world's first "carbon neutral state."

Pope Francis has commissioned an agrivoltaic plant to be located in the extraterritorial area of Santa Maria di Galeria that will ensure the complete energy sustenance of Vatican City.

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When installing the photovoltaic panels, the challenge was to fit leading-edge technology around the fabric of

the historic building. As a first step, we removed 4,800 concrete elements from the roof of the Audience Hall which had previously served to provide shade for the building.

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