

# Pros of solar energy Papua New Guinea

Can solar power help Papua New Guinea?

Solar panel used in Osima Village, West Sepik Province, to charge mobile phones and lighting. Participants will now become solar energy experts in their communities to improve on this type of basic system. "UNDP is committed to supporting the Government in increasing access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy throughout Papua New Guinea.

Can Papua New Guinea achieve environmental sustainability?

Without enhancing access to clean energy, we cannot succeed in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and enhance environmental sustainability in Papua New Guinea," stated UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Nicholas Booth, after the training.

Is Papua New Guinea embracing mobile pay-go?

Papua New Guineans are embracing mobile pay-go, aka PAYG, solar, which is proving to be a potent, if small-scale, agent of change in terms of improving energy access, rural electrification, renewable energy use and sustainable development.

Is solar a good investment in PNG?

Even without incentives or feed-in tariffs, in PNG the economic advantage of solar is still overwhelming with ROI approaching 37 per cent for some projects. The first medium and large-scale solar projects will be commissioned over the next six months, which will trigger exponential growth in 2021 and likely many more players to enter the market.

Can solar replace fossil fuels in Papua New Guinea?

The potential for solar to replace fossil fuels in Papua New Guinea is high, according to Lighting Papua New Guinea, which has played a key, pivotal role in multilateral efforts to promote and foster solar and renewable energy investments and use in Papua New Guinea.

Will solar power be the next stage in PNG?

Electricity in PNG is still very expensive and the cost of solar power continues to fall each year. Now we're seeing similar price drops for batteries, and I think that will be the next stage for solar projects, as many of them will begin to include energy storage.

A new report from ANZ encourages Papua New Guinea to ditch diesel power generation in favour of cheaper energy technologies such as solar PV, micro-hydro and biomass. Currently, PNG's energy mix is primarily oil (49%), ...

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



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of these classes and the global distribution of land area across the classes (for comparison).

Unfortunately Papua New Guinea (PNG) faces an acute electrification challenge with the majority of the population, especially in rural communities living without basic access to electricity.

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Solar energy would provide a means to not only create safer and healthier living environments, but it could also cut labor for women and girls, leaving them to pursue educational or economic endeavors.

Through the USAID PNG Electrification Project (PEP) there are opportunities for U.S. businesses to supply small scale solar products and equipment into the PNG market. Several PNG provincial governments also seek to deliver affordable solar and hydro energy to their constituents.

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Including solar PV pico-lights, the rate of access increases to around 55%, which is still lower than the global average of 89% but demonstrates the already significant impact of PV technology.

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What progress has solar energy made in Papua New Guinea and what is its potential, particularly for business? Christian Lohberger, President and founder of the Solar Energy Association of PNG and co-founder of Astra Solar Ltd, shares his views with Business Advantage PNG.

Lighting Papua New Guinea has drawn on the experience it has gained in Africa and Asia to help 10 global and local companies in Papua New Guinea develop and grow the island nation's local off-grid solar market.

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