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Bahamas solar Power Generation and Energy Storage Advantages



Overview

The Caribbean island nation of the Bahamas is turning to independent power producers (IPPs), the combination of “solar plus storage” and hybrid microgrids to extend sustainable energy access, improve energy reliability and resiliency, and reduce carbon emissions and environmental footprints on four of the archipelagic nation’s 30 inhabited islands (pop. around 400,000). Is solar a good option in the Bahamas?

On a kilowatt-hour (kWh) by kilowatt-hour basis, solar’s your best, but you need to add battery energy storage capacity in order to reach higher levels of penetration,” he noted. “Nassau’s [the Bahamas’ largest city] is a pretty big grid, and it can take a fair bit of solar without storage,” Burgess continued.

Does the Bahamas need a solar power plant?

The need to protect the tourism industry is an added incentive. In 2023, the Bahamas opened the first of two solar plants in Grand Bahama. The two solar plants are expected to cut more than 5,000 tons of CO₂ emissions per year. The government pledged to generate 30 percent of the country's energy from renewable sources by 2033.

Is the Bahamas a difficult place to generate electricity?

BPL Chairman Donovan Moxey was quoted in a Tribune Business news report. The Bahamas is a very difficult place to generate electricity, distribute it and sell it, even as compared to other Caribbean islands, Chris Burgess, Islands Energy Program projects director, told Solar Magazine.

Is the Bahamas a sustainable country?

The Bahamas, an archipelago located in the Caribbean, has historically relied on fossil fuels to meet its energy needs, with nearly 100% of its electricity generated from oil and natural gas as of 2024. The government aims to shift towards sustainability, setting a target to generate 30% of its energy from renewable sources by 2033.

Why did the Bahamas start pursuing alternative energy sources?

Because of the instability of the global oil supply and the environmental damage associated with fossil fuels, the Bahamas began actively pursuing alternative energy sources in the twenty-first century. Climate change and rising sea levels are a particular concern to low-lying island nations such as the Bahamas.

How will the family Islands solar power system work?

Development of the four solar-fueled power systems will set the stage to scale the Family Islands solar program across the island chain's outlying islands, as well as contribute to the Bahamas achieving a national goal of renewable energy resources meeting 30% of electricity needs by 2030.

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