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Ecuador energy storage container power station effect



Overview

Will Ecuador get a nuclear power plant?

In May 2025, Ecuador became a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The next step is to enact the legal framework to oversee and regulate nuclear energy. Only after the legal framework is in place could the Energy Ministry issue a public procurement for the first nuclear power plant in Ecuador.

What type of energy does Ecuador use?

Ecuador's renewable energy is comprised of hydro power (5,419 MW), biomass (1550 MW), wind (71 MW), photovoltaic (29 MW), and biogas (11 MW). Hydroelectric power plants are in three regions: coastal (2 provinces), Andes (9 provinces), and Amazon (4 provinces).

Can Ecuador add nuclear energy to its energy mix?

Ecuador is also exploring opportunities to add nuclear energy to its energy mix, though it has not allocated budgetary resources to this sector. Ecuador's nuclear energy plan contemplates a 300 MW small modular reactor in the medium term and a 1 GW reactor in the long term.

How much electricity does Ecuador need?

Ecuador had a peak demand of 5,110 MW in May 2025, and according to CENACE, electricity demand grows by 360 MW every year. Ecuador's energy shortage could result in a recurrence of power outages, particularly in the dry season of September through December. Ecuador has added minimal generation in recent years.

How did Ecuador's power outages affect economic activity in 2024?

During a prolonged dry season in 2024, Ecuador's over-reliance on hydropower (78 percent of total generation) resulted in daily blackouts of up to 14 hours, hurting economic activity. According to Ecuador's Central Bank,

power outages caused economic losses of about \$2 billion in 2024.

When will Ecuador start constructing a solar power plant?

In 2023, the Energy Ministry released tenders for a 500 MW renewable block (wind, biomass, solar), 400 MW Natural Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCCP), and a Northeast Transmission System to supply the Ecuadorian oil system. From these tenders, only the Villonaco project has started construction as of August 2025.

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