



A-Core Container

Uruguay power plant off-grid energy storage system



Overview

Does Uruguay have a power grid?

The map of Uruguay's electrical grid today is starkly different from that of 2008, when the majority of power was generated at a few hydroelectric dams north of Montevideo and the rest at a handful of fossil fuel plants in the capital. It's now possible for the entire grid to run several hours a day entirely on wind power.

How much money does Uruguay need to transform the grid?

But given that Uruguay's GDP was just \$41.95 billion in 2010, the government was wary of funneling an estimated \$7 billion of public money into the huge renewable energy projects that would have to be undertaken in order to transform the grid. Instead, the leftist party chose to ask private companies to take on much of the financial risk.

How does Uruguay get its electricity?

To this day, Uruguay continues to rely heavily on its dams, including the imposing Salto Grande on the Río Uruguay, whose power is shared with Argentina, and several on the Río Negro. For decades, electricity from those dams and from generators running on gas and oil imported largely from Argentina and Brazil met Uruguayans' energy needs.

How much green energy does Uruguay use?

In 2016, even before several more renewables projects went online, it hit 94.5 percent green energy. In 2019, according to an analysis by the Uruguayan company SEG Engineering, the country ran on 98 percent renewable energy.

Why is Uruguay turning to wind power?

The answer lay in a strategic pivot towards renewable energy sources, particularly wind power. The true transformation began with a bold bet on wind energy. By 2008, Uruguay was experiencing economic growth that

outpaced its existing energy supply.

How does Uruguay generate 97 percent of its electricity from renewable sources?

Going for gales: Wind turbine farms are one of the ways Uruguay managed to generate 97 percent of its electricity from renewable sources. (Courtesy of Natasha Hakimi Zapata)

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