

## A-Core Container

# Uruguay s new energy storage electricity costs



## Overview

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Uruguay has shown clean power can beat fossil fuels on price, stability and jobs. By rewriting market rules and running competitive auctions, it built an electricity system that is nearly 99% renewable while halving generation costs. Former energy minister Ramón Méndez Galain argues the transition.

Together, they are opening new credit lines for businesses tackling electric transport, energy storage, waste management, and other clean energy ventures. For entrepreneurs, this means access to loans and guarantees sized between US\$100,000 and US\$1 million to push Uruguay further along the path to.

Uruguay is a frontrunner in renewable energy integration in Latin America, with developing potential in the areas of battery storage and smart grid technologies. The country's electricity matrix is highly renewable, with over 97% of its power generated from renewable sources. This renewable. How much electricity does Uruguay produce?

The results speak for themselves. Today, Uruguay produces nearly 99% of its electricity from renewable sources, with only a small fraction—roughly 1%-3%—coming from flexible thermal plants, such as those powered by natural gas. They are used only when hydroelectric power cannot fully cover periods when wind and solar energy are low.

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).

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.

How much does Uruguay's energy bill cost a year?

Even in years with average rainfall, costs could often skyrocket to \$1.1 billion a year. According to UTE, droughts and fluctuations in oil pricing threatened to more than double that, bringing Uruguay's annual energy bill to \$2.5 billion.

Why did Uruguay switch to renewables?

Uruguay's shift to renewables, he argues, demonstrated that clean energy can be cheaper, more stable, and create more jobs than fossil fuels. Once the country adjusted the playing field that had long favored oil and gas, renewables outperformed on every front: halving costs, creating 50,000 jobs, and protecting the economy from price shocks.

Is Uruguay a net importer of energy?

Once a net importer of energy, Uruguay now exports its surplus energy to neighbouring Brazil and Argentina. In less than two decades, Uruguay broke free of its dependence on oil imports and carbon emitting power generation, transitioning to renewable energy that is owned by the state but with infrastructure paid for by private investment.

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