

Kazakhstan's solar power generation and energy storage prospects

Is Kazakhstan a good place to invest in solar power?

Kazakhstan has remarkable solar potential with a very well-designed auction system, a clear renewable capacity addition schedule, and a solid decarbonisation target. The country is now also including storage systems as part of its public procurement strategy in a move that will ease further integration of renewables into the grid.

What is the energy transition in Kazakhstan?

To date, the energy transition in Kazakhstan has almost exclusively focused on electricity generation, consisting mainly of the deployment of new solar and wind facilities. By contrast, there is almost no heat production from renewable energy sources, aside from traditional biomass such as fire-wood. The biogas sector remains very underdeveloped.

Is solar energy a viable energy source in Kazakhstan?

In 2019, another solar power plant in Kazakhstan, Saran, with a capacity of 100 MW started its operation in the Karaganda region (Satubaldina, 2020). According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), within the period of 40 years, solar energy has a potential to meet about 20-25% of the energy demand of the country.

What are Kazakhstan's Energy goals?

In 2013, Kazakhstan introduced renewable energy targets: by 2020, 3% of electricity was to be generated from solar, wind, small hydro-power, and biogas – a target that was met on time. By 2030, the goal is to reach 15%. There is also an interim target of 6% by 2025, which Kazakhstan is on track to achieve.

Can solar power drive Kazakhstan's decarbonisation?

The focus now is on leveraging solar's comparative advantages to drive forward Kazakhstan's decarbonisation and harness its significant solar resources. This report builds on the first edition of solar investment opportunities in Kazakhstan.

Why is Kazakhstan important to Central Asia?

Kazakhstan is Central Asia's energy transition pioneer. It was the first country in the region to set renewable energy targets, develop a functioning support mechanism for wind and solar, launch an emissions trading system, and establish a carbon neutrality target.

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