

Uruguay containerized power generation

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.

How does the electricity sector work in Uruguay?

The electricity sector of Uruguay has traditionally been based on domestic hydropower along with thermal power plants, and reliant on imports from Argentina and Brazil at times of peak demand.

Why does Uruguay have a power grid?

In the same way Uruguay's abundance of wind and rivers proved fortuitous for energy sovereignty, so was the government's oversight of the electric grid.

Is Uruguay a repeatable framework of energy sovereignty for developing countries?

Ramírez Mendez Galain believes so. Uruguay's former national director of energy in the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining, who was the impetus for the country's shift away from dirty fuels, has been promoting the country's success as a repeatable framework of energy sovereignty for developing countries.

Why did Uruguay start using wind turbines?

Avoiding nuclear power entirely, Uruguay first embraced wind turbines as a source of cheap, reliable power; providing 40% of the country's capacity in less than a decade.

How many wind power plants are there in Uruguay?

Existing plants are Terra (152 MW), Baygorria (108 MW), Constitucion (333 MW) and the bi-national Salto Grande, with a total capacity of 1,890 MW. Uruguay has a favorable climate for generating electricity through wind power. Installed wind power capacity reached 1,000 MW by 2016, generating 17% of the country's electricity.

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