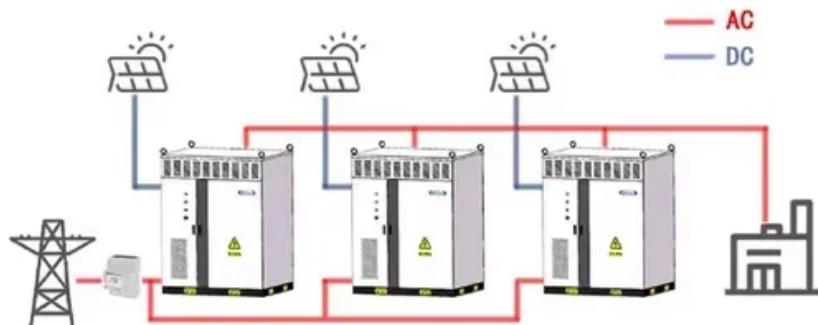


Bhutan communication base station grid-connected solar power generation

WORKING PRINCIPLE



Overview

Does Bhutan have a solar energy project?

The project was executed by the Bhutanese government's Department of Renewable Energy in collaboration with the Bhutan Power Corporation, a public utility. It received funding support from the Japanese government and was supported by the United Nations Development Programme in Bhutan. Is this the start of a solar energy rollout in Bhutan?

What is Bhutan's first solar power project?

The first phase of Bhutan's first utility-scale solar power project at Sephu in Wangdue Phodrang is set for completion by March next year. A utility-scale solar facility generates solar power and feeds it into the grid. The 17.38-megawatt solar farm is expected to generate around 24 million units of energy annually, once operational.

Could a solar power plant be connected to Bhutan's national grid?

On 27 August, the first ground-mounted solar power plant to be connected to Bhutan's national grid went online. Households could be powered for a year by the solar plant at Rubesa, given the average household in Bhutan uses 1,567 kWh of electricity per year.

Can solar power plants help Bhutan achieve energy security?

The solar plant in Rubesa is one such initiative which takes Bhutan a step closer to achieving energy security through a diversified and sustainable energy supply mix. The project particularly demonstrates viability of solar power plants on a utility scale.

Can solar power diversify Bhutan's energy sources?

The 180 kW grid-tied solar PV plant, the first of its kind in the country,

demonstrates viability of solar power to diversify Bhutan's energy sources
Photo: Department of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Is grid-tied solar a viable alternative energy source in Bhutan?

The commissioning and inauguration of the 180kW grid-tied ground mounted solar photo-voltaic power plant marks the start of Bhutan's investment in grid-tied solar energy as a viable alternative energy source in the face of soaring domestic demand and climate change.

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