

## **SolarTech Power Solutions**

# **Bhutan emergency energy storage power supplier**



## Overview

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Who owns the energy sector in Bhutan?

Bhutan's energy sector operations have separate commercial management and ownership from the government. The state-owned Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) owns and operates power plants while the Bhutan Power Corporation, also state-owned, performs transmission and distribution.

How can Bhutan improve its energy security?

To improve Bhutan's energy security while strengthening resilience to water variation and climate change, it is required to diversify power generation sources and types, including (i) solar farms, rooftop and floating solar, and agrivoltaics; and (ii) storage and pumped storage hydropower and small hydropower. 4 H. Nagai et al. 2017.

How much energy can a rooftop solar system generate in Bhutan?

Bhutan's estimated total energy generation potential from rooftop solar system is 3,586 MW, including specific estimates for Thimphu (789 MW) and Paro (206 MW).<sup>5</sup> In Thimphu alone, there are 1,521 government buildings suitable for rooftop solar installations, with an estimated capacity of 50 MW.

Does Bhutan have a higher electricity tariff than its cost of supply?

While Bhutan industrial consumers pay a higher electricity tariff than their cost of supply, the rate of Nu 2.66/kilowatt-hour (kWh) (equivalent to ¢3.2/kWh) remains attractive to power intensive industries.

How much hydropower does Bhutan have?

Bhutan has an installed capacity of 2,460 megawatts (MW) for hydropower generation. However, during the dry season (December-March), the total generation output drops to approximately 415 MW equivalent due to low river inflows. This is because all the existing plants are run-of-the-river schemes that have no seasonal storage capacity.

Does Bhutan have a power shortage?

In the winter period of December 2023 to May 2024, Bhutan experienced its highest power shortage, which was addressed by importing a total of 1,446 GWh of electricity from India. The quantum of imports and their purchase prices have shown a significant upward trend from 2021 to 2024.

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