



SolarTech Power Solutions

Bhutan's independent energy storage charging and discharging prices



Overview

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.

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.

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.

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.

Can India export power from Bhutan?

However, in the case of electricity generated from coal-based power plants, India is allowed to export power generated only from imported coal, rather than domestic coal. This implies that Bhutan's imported power may be costlier and more CO2 polluting.

How much power does Bhutan consume?

These power-intensive industrial consumers currently account for approximately 85% of the total domestic load as of 2023.¹ From December 2023 to March 2024, Bhutan's domestic consumption has already risen by 59% compared to the same period of the previous year (December 2022–March 2023), from 1,473 gigawatt-hour (GWh) to 2,346 GWh.

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