

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Are there subsidies for solar energy storage in Burundi



Overview

The World Bank approved two grants for a total of \$160 million from the International Development Association (IDA) to support Burundi in improving essential services through solar power and local development in rural and remote areas. \$100 million in subsidies will go to the Solar Energy in Local Communities (SOLEIL), which aims to increase access to energy in the country by almost 100% by electrifying families, businesses, schools and centres of the poorest communities in the country.

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The government has also implemented policies to encourage private sector investment, including tax incentives for solar companies and subsidies for rural solar projects.

Agroenergy and Energy for the Countryside – programs aimed at the agricultural sector, with financing for the integration of energy storage with RES installations. Energy Plus and BGK's Green Loan – financial support for companies

Does Burundi have solar power?

However, solar makes up a small fraction of energy supplied in Burundi due to its relatively low installed capacity of 5 MW (“Burundi Energy Profile” 2021). Solar made up 5% of all installed capacity in 2020, generating a total of 8 GWh of electricity for the year, which accounted for 2% of annual electricity generation in Burundi.

What is the primary energy supply in Burundi?

The remainder of the primary energy supply is from oil (“Burundi Energy Profile” 2021). However, a majority (98%) of the renewable energy supply in

Burundi is bioenergy. The remainder of the renewable energy supply is hydroelectric, and solar power (“Burundi Energy Profile” 2021).

What can a Burundi Energy Center do?

For example, such a center in Burundi could focus on funding and implementing solar-plus-storage technologies for rural and remote households. The 2015 Electricity Act enables foreign investments into the power sector. In addition, laws in Burundi allow tax benefits for energy investment and public-private partnership.

How much does electricity cost in Burundi?

Average power prices in Burundi are among the most expensive in the world, some sources citing the average tariff at USD 0.31/kWh (“REGIDESO to Nearly Triple Electricity Tariffs” 2017).

Why does Burundi need a gas power plant?

This is driven by a lack of supply, grid inefficiencies (24% of supply lost due to transmission and distribution network technical issues (Nsabimana 2020)), lack of investment in new infrastructure, and dependence on a leased gas power plant (“Burundi ClimateScope 2021” 2021).

Why is private sector development a problem in Burundi?

Private sector development is constrained by an unattractive business climate, weak governance, and high dependence on foreign aid. Utilization of tariffs is considered a strength; however, tariffs in Burundi are considered high and ineffective.

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