

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

PV Energy Storage Options in Africa



Overview

The Solar Africa Solar Outlook 2025 details that energy storage has become a critical complement to variable renewable energy (VRE) generation such as solar PV, with the trade body indicating that developers are increasingly looking to co-locate battery energy storage systems (BESS) with renewable energy power plants. Is solar PV a viable option in Africa?

To date, the potential of solar PV of different types (i.e, residential or utility scale) in Africa are still widely underutilized. Africa's energy mix is currently mainly comprised of fossil fuels and biomass .

What are the recommendations for solar PV systems in Africa?

Table 5. List of recommendations for solar PV systems in Africa based on the reviewed literature. Affordability of rooftop solar PV should be increased through government incentives such as appropriate FiT, subsidies, tax relief, public-private partnership, grants, loans (low/zero-interest), and community loan sharing programmes.

Will solar PV Help Africa achieve net-zero emissions & SDG 7?

However, the use of solar PV is projected to significantly increase in the coming years with the growth of energy demand in the continent . This should also benefit African nations looking to achieve net-zero emissions and the SDG 7 for clean affordable energy, in the near future.

Does Scatec have a solar-plus-storage site in South Africa?

Scatec's Kenhardt solar-plus-storage site in South Africa (above), which went online at the end of 2023. Image: Scatec. Africa's energy storage market has seen a boom since 2017, having risen from just 31MWh to 1,600MWh in 2024, according to trade body AFSIA Solar's latest report.

How can Africa boost solar PV uptake?

There are limited success stories in Africa relating to effective rollout of policy

to boost solar PV uptake. In Ghana, the government embarked on a project to provide free rooftop solar PV systems (up to 500 W) to help reducing demand on the national power grid .

What are the most popular solar-plus-storage developments in Africa?

As noted by AFSIA Solar, one of the most notable solar-plus-storage developments in Africa is Norway-based independent power producer (IPP) Scatec's 225MW/1,140MWh Kenhardt project in South Africa. The site started operation in late 2023 (pictured above).

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