

Why is solar power important in Chile?

Solar power in Chile is an increasingly important source of energy. Total installed photovoltaic (PV) capacity in Chile reached 8.36 GW in 2023. Solar energy provided 19.9% of national electricity generation in Chile in 2023, compared to less than 0.1% in 2013.

What is Chile's largest solar power plant?

On 8 July 2024, Chile's largest solar power plant, CEME 1, was inaugurated in an activity led by national authorities and in which participated key stakeholders of the energy sector. CEME 1 is a 480 MW solar plant which was built and will be operated by Generadora Metropolitana, a joint venture between EDF and the Chilean company AME.

How much does a solar power plant cost in Chile?

Because of its good solar resource several international companies have bid record low prices for solar thermal power plants in Chile, including the Copiapó Solar Project bid at \$63/MWh by SolarReserve in 2017. If realized this would have been the lowest ever price for a CSP project in the world.

Does Chile have a solar thermal tower?

Chile's Atacama desert is home to the only solar thermal tower in Latin America. The imposing 240-meter construction is one of the pillars of the country's ambitious green energy program that began in 2019 and aims to completely replace fossil fuels by 2040.

Is there an alternative to solar energy in Chile?

Chile has begun to explore an alternative. Both Cerro Dominador and the Alba Project are powered by so-called solar salts, extracted from the Atacama Desert, composed of potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate. When melted and kept in a liquid state, they allow energy to be stored.

Will Chile replace coal plants with solar thermal plants?

As coal plants are eliminated, Chile intends to replace them with solar thermal plants or convert them into batteries like the Alba Project. The solar thermal tower Cerro Dominador has become a symbol of Chile's energy revolution against climate change.

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PowerChina has finished building a 480 MW solar plant in the Atacama Desert in northern Chile, which is recognized for having the world's highest solar radiation levels.

Harnessing Solar Energy: Chile's Leap Towards Sustainable Prosperity. In the heart of Latin America, Chile is emerging as a beacon of innovation and sustainability, leading a solar ...

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The CEME1 480-megawatt Solar Farm, built by POWERCHINA in Chile, was connected to the grid on April 24 at full capacity, meaning it will soon begin operating commercially. The solar farm is the largest new energy project built by POWERCHINA in the Americas and the first grid-connected solar power project independently built by POWRCHINA ...

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