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Cook Islands Energy Storage solar Power Generation Project



Overview

Summary: The Cook Islands are set to launch their largest renewable energy storage project, combining solar power with cutting-edge battery technology. Does Rarotonga have solar power?

The Cook Islands Electricity Sector All inhabited islands of the Cook Islands currently have centralised power supplies that have historically been powered by diesel generators. Since around 2011, increasing solar PV generation on Rarotonga has changed this situation.

How much battery storage capacity will be installed in Rarotonga?

Additional battery storage capacity consisting of 1 megawatt (MW)/4 megawatt hour (MWh) for grid stability will be installed in the diesel power station in Avatiu Valley, Rarotonga, and 2 MW/8 MWh for load-shifting capability will be installed at the Rarotonga International Airport.

Can solar power be installed on Aitutaki?

Fig 4 presents such an approach for the medium-size island of Aitutaki. At the moment, Aitutaki is a power system 100% supplied by diesel generators (3 x 600 kW). During Stage 1, 1 MW of solar PV will be installed on the island which will run in parallel with the existing diesel generators.

What does the GCF grant mean for the Cook Islands?

The GCF is providing a \$12-million grant to co-finance the project, which is part of the seven-year Pacific Islands Renewable Investment Program covering the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Tonga. The grant will fund assistance to the Cook Islands in procuring and installing battery storage.

Where do most people live in the Cook Islands?

Most of the Cook Islands people live in the Southern Islands. Two largest Islands are Rarotonga (main island) and Aitutaki. The Government of the Cook

Islands has a long standing policy commitment of 100% renewable electricity by 2020.

How will a new solar power plant benefit the country?

The additional capacity will allow an increase of 6 MW in solar photovoltaic capacity connected to the grid, and improve the share of renewable energy in the country's national electricity supply, to about 50% by the end of the project in 2021 from the present 15%.

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