

SolarInnovate Energy Solutions

Photovoltaic rooftop power generation in Ireland



Overview

According to new figures from Ireland's distribution system operator (DSO) ESB Networks, the country now has more than 100,000 rooftop solar projects, cumulatively adding more than 400 MW of clean energy to the national grid. Is rooftop solar a viable energy source in Ireland?

The rooftop solar resource within the EU is "vast and underutilised" according to the European Commission (EU Solar Energy Strategy, 2022). In Ireland, the technical potential of residential rooftop solar PV has been estimated at ≈ 13 GWp (Bódis et al. 2019, Joshi & Deane 2022), compared to the current peak power system demand of $\approx 5-6$ GW.

How many rooftop solar renewable generator connections are there in Ireland?

"The delivery of 100,000 rooftop solar renewable generator connections is significant," said Nicholas Tarrant, managing director at Ireland DSO ESB Networks. "Solar energy is Ireland's fastest growing renewable power source, and the 400 MW of microgeneration complements a further 800 MW of larger scale solar connected in recent years.

Will Irish citizens be able to pay for rooftop solar?

Irish citizens will be entitled to payment for exporting power they generate themselves and rooftop solar planning restrictions are due to be eased. The EU Solar Energy Strategy sets out a growth trajectory for solar PV with provision for all new residences to have rooftop solar PV from 2029.

Are solar panels a good option for residential electricity generation in Ireland?

Ireland is known more for wind and waves rather than sunshine, but advances in solar technology and reductions in cost now make it an attractive option for residential electricity generation in Ireland. Solar panels that produce electricity are known as solar photovoltaic (PV) modules.

How does solar PV work in Ireland?

Solar PV systems are rated in kilowatts (kW). A 1kW solar PV system would require 2-3 solar panels on a roof and will generate most of its electricity between April to September. The deployment of residential solar PV in Ireland addresses key energy and climate issues such as Electricity Affordability, Climate Action and Energy Security.

How many rooftop solar projects are there in Ireland?

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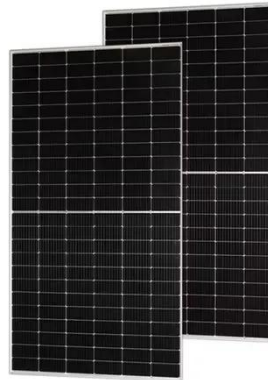
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