

SolarInnovate Energy Solutions

The prospects for solar photovoltaic panels in the Vatican



Overview

Why does the Vatican have a solar system?

The Vatican's solar shift is a culmination of a political and spiritual mission years in the making. In 2024, the late Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter ordering the construction of an agrivoltaic solar plant to supply the Vatican with energy from Santa Maria di Galeria. On the same site, the new solar infrastructure now stands.

How will a solar plant benefit the Vatican?

The Pope has given full authority to two special Commissioners to supervise the plant's construction, ensuring that the project is carried out efficiently and effectively. The energy generated by this solar plant will cover all the Vatican's energy needs, eliminating dependence on non-renewable energy sources.

Is Vatican City powered by solar?

This is not just about rooftop panels; it's about how science, sustainability, and faith can coexist and set the pace for the rest of the world to follow. Vatican City is powered by solar. On May 29, 2025, the Vatican City officially transitioned to solar power, marking a significant shift in the European energy landscape.

Does the Vatican need a solar plant?

The implementation of a solar plant not only improves the Vatican's environmental sustainability, but also offers economic and social benefits. By generating its own energy, the Vatican can save on light. This is especially relevant in a context where the price of light is a constant worry for many.

Where is Vatican Radio's New solar power plant located?

The plant will be located in Santa Maria di Galeria, some 11 kilometers from Rome, where Vatican Radio's broadcasting station is located. Not only will this

project generate renewable electricity, but it will also be integrated with the land's agricultural needs, combining modern technology with sustainable practices.

Why did Acea install a solar energy system in Vatican City?

This project was carried out by ACEA, an Italian utility company, which installed systems to meet all of the Vatican's energy demands. What makes this significant is not the size, but that Vatican City is only 0.49km², and there was no loud campaign, no press tour, just action set in stone and implemented.

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