

SolarInnovate Energy Solutions

Vatican photovoltaic panels



Overview

While not yet fully powered by renewables, the Vatican has steadily expanded its solar infrastructure since 2008: over 2,394 photovoltaic panels—many atop the Paul VI Audience Hall—already generate around 300 MWh of electricity annually. Does the Vatican have solar power?

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Will the Vatican build a solar plant in 2024?

In 2024, the Vatican announced a new solar plant to be built on Church-owned land outside Rome, positioning the city-state to become the eighth country in the world to run entirely on renewable electricity. The project will also include agricultural activity, creating an “agrivoltaic” site that combines solar energy production with farming.

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.

Where are solar panels located in Rome?

Sometimes the solar arrays are situated on top of greenhouses, interwoven among crops, or elevated plants. Where is the Vatican’s solar installation located?

The agrivoltaic plant is situated on the Holy See’s property at Santa Maria di Galeria on the outskirts of Rome.

Does the Vatican have a low-energy lighting system?

The Vatican has introduced low-energy lighting systems; over 100,000 LED lights have replaced older fixtures, cutting energy consumption by up to 90% while protecting delicate frescoes from heat exposure. Villa Barberini, Pontifical Gardens at Castel Gandolfo: Photo by Sonse - Villa Barberini Pontifical Gardens, Castel Gandolfo, CC BY 2.0.

Why did Pope Francis ask the Vatican to build a solar farm?

Pope Francis last year asked the Vatican to study developing the area into a vast solar farm, hoping to put into practice his preaching about the need to transition away from fossil fuels and find clean, carbon-neutral energy sources. Pope Leo XIV visited the site in June and affirmed that he intended to see Francis' vision through.

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Vatican City now runs fully on solar power « Euro Weekly News

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Inauguration of the installation of photovoltaic panels in ...

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