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Lebanon can generate solar power for home use

Overview

Lebanon faces an enduring energy crisis, characterized by persistent electricity shortages and an overreliance on polluting self-generation methods, particularly in urban areas like Beirut. Despite the lack of proper policy support, solar electricity has increased.

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Like tens of thousands of Lebanese people, the Mazloums have turned to solar power to generate reliable—and cost-effective—electricity in a country where the crisis-stricken state provides as little as one or two hours of power a day. From left: Roger Mazloum's mother, Odette, in their living room;.

For years, Lebanon’s daily electricity cuts have dictated the rhythms and patterns of everyday life. A technician controls an electric switch board connecting homes to electricity generators in a suburb of Beirut, 2021. Joseph Eid/AFP via Getty Images In Beirut, these cuts used to last a few hours.

Faced with chronic shortages from the public supplier Electricité du Liban (EDL), rampant private diesel generator rationing, and high fuel prices and electric bills, Lebanese citizens turned to solar as a flicker of hope amid the darkness. Surveying the cityscape from above today, a mosaic of.

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While many rely on expensive generators for electricity, a growing number of people, companies and state institutions are turning to solar -- not out of environmental concern, but because it has become their only option. (Photo by JOSEPH EID / AFP) Power cuts have been a persistent issue in Lebanon.

According to the State-affiliated Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC), private installations in businesses and homes since 2020 have added 350MW of renewable power — about 5-7% of Lebanon’s annual energy needs (by comparison, only 100MW of solar power were added between 2010 and 2020).Does Lebanon need solar power?

Lebanon has a target to source 30% of its electricity from renewables by 2030. However, some argue that LCEC and Lebanon's government have played little role in the rollout of solar in the country.

Are Lebanon's solar companies paying a lot for fuel?

We are also paying a lot for fuel.” ME Green was one of the early solar-power companies in Lebanon, but the sector has ballooned, from around 150 registered businesses in 2020 to more than 800 today, according to the LCEC’s Khoury.

How many solar companies are there in Lebanon?

ME Green was one of the early solar-power companies in Lebanon, but the sector has ballooned, from around 150 registered businesses in 2020 to more than 800 today, according to the LCEC’s Khoury. These companies work on everything from small household systems—which start at $2,000 to $3,500—to projects involving hundreds of panels or more.

How much solar power will Lebanon have in 2022?

Over 650 megawatts (MW) were installed in 2022 alone, says El-Khoury, bringing Lebanon's total solar capacity to 870MW, according to his figures. "Installed capacity should reach 1,000MW in June ," he says. He estimates that the installed capacity of diesel generators, meanwhile, likely amounts to 1,000-1,500MW.

Where are solar panels located in Lebanon?

Atop several campus buildings at Sagesse University in Furn El-Chebbak, a suburb southeast of Beirut, row upon row of solar panels gleam under the bright afternoon sun. The Catholic university, home to some 3,500 students, is one of the many organizations in Lebanon that have turned to solar power.

Are the mazloums in Lebanon getting solar panels?

The Mazloums are hardly alone in Lebanon. Solar panels have been cropping

up across the country over the past two years, from the rooftops of rural households to urban apartments, and from atop family-run businesses to buildings housing national and multinational organizations.

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The generated power can feed your home directly or can easily be stored in batteries for later usage during the hours of darkness. The excess electricity produced can be directly sold to the ...

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