

# Change of use of Vatican energy storage project







#### **Overview**

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.

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.

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.

How will the Vatican's new energy system work?

According to the Vatican's press office, the installation will apply the most advanced solutions currently available, balancing clean energy generation with the preservation of agricultural use, the region's hydrogeological stability, and the protection of its cultural and archaeological heritage (ZENIT News / Rome, 08.01.2025).-.

What is the Vatican doing to reduce waste?

The project will also include agricultural activity, creating an "agrivoltaic" site



that combines solar energy production with farming. In terms of waste, the Vatican is working to increase its recycling rate from 65% to 75%, surpassing the EU average of around 49% (Eurostat, 2022).

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.



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