

# Solar power generation for home use in Mali







### **Overview**

How many mini-solar plants are there in Mali?

The rural electrification agency says 32 mini-solar plants like the one in Karan are in four regions in Mali's south and southwest of the country, providing power for more than 2 million people, and are run by WeLight and Germanowned Africa GreenTec. "We started with 48 connections and now we have more than 200.

Is solar power a good idea in Mali?

Solar power is a recent development in the country. The government is encouraging the use of it by exempting equipment from customs duties and promising to subsidize the price of solar kits. Without such subsidies, solar energy in Mali is about twice the price of the traditional fossil fuel energy used in cities.

How much does it cost to get electricity in Mali?

Studies have shown that achieving universal access to electricity in Mali would require an investment of around \$1.3 billion to extend networks and create more mini-grids, Sissoko said. Solar power is a recent development in the country.

Can Mali achieve universal access to electricity?

In rural areas, access is as low as 25%, according to Abdoulaye Makan Sissoko, an official with Mali's rural electrification agency. Studies have shown that achieving universal access to electricity in Mali would require an investment of around \$1.3 billion to extend networks and create more minigrids, Sissoko said.

Where does Mali get its electricity from?

The other source is the Manantali dam, in Mali, which stores about 11 billion cubic meters of water. The nearby Manantali 200 MW hydropower station is



the main one in the region and, supplies 55 percent of its electricity to Mali, while the rest is equally shared between Mauritania and Senegal.

Can a solar power plant jolt a village to life?

(AP Photo/Baba Ahmed) KARAN, Mali (AP) — A solar power plant in this rural corner of Mali has jolted a village to life and awakened dreams of steady power in other areas of this West African nation as it sees unprecedented growth in renewable energy. The border village of Karan and its 3,000 people used to go days without electricity.



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Insecurity caused by extremist attacks is another challenge to expansion in Mali, especially in the north, limiting the areas where companies can safely set up solar mini-grids.



However, with abundant year-round sunshine and some of the highest solar irradiance levels in the world, Mali has remarkable potential to harness solar energy as a promising alternative for ...





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