



# Western Europe has solar power

How does solar energy work in Europe?

Solar power consists of photovoltaics (PV) and solar thermal energy in the European Union (EU). In 2010, the EUR 2.6 billion European solar heating sectors consisted of small and medium-sized businesses, generated 17.3 terawatt-hours (TWh) of energy, employed 33,500 workers, and created one new job for every 80 kW of added capacity. [1]

Which energy sources are most important in Europe?

The results demonstrate a strong commitment to renewable energy production across Europe, with wind power generally leading as the largest source, followed by solar and hydro power.

Why is solar energy so popular in Europe?

Solar energy is cheap, clean and flexible. The cost of solar power decreased by 82% between 2010-2020, making it the most competitive source of electricity in many parts of the EU. The EU solar generation capacity keeps increasing and reached, according to Solar Power Europe, an estimated 259.99 GW in 2023.

Is there a trade-off between solar and wind power in Europe?

A fascinating aspect of the renewable energy landscape in Europe is the interplay between different forms of renewable energy. In many regions, there is a trade-off between solar and wind power. Regions with high solar potential often have low wind potential, and vice versa.

How much solar energy will Europe have in 2020?

According to the National Renewable Energy Action Plans the total solar thermal capacity in the EU will be 102 GW in 2020 (while 14 GW in 2006). [1] In June 2009, the European Parliament and Council adopted the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES).

Which EU countries have more solar power?

In 2022, four EU member states--Spain, Germany, Poland, and the Netherlands--ranked among the top 10 globally for additional solar capacity installed in the preceding year. [3] During 2023, an additional 55.9 gigawatts (GW) of photovoltaics systems were connected to the grid in the European Union, taking cumulative capacity to 263 GW.

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