

# Will photovoltaic panels still increase in price

Will solar panel prices drop 40% this year?

Tim Buckley, director of Climate Energy Finance, speaks to pv magazine about the current steep trajectory of solar module prices. He estimates that PV panels prices will end up dropping by 40% this year and predicts the closure of old technology and sub-scale solar manufacturing facilities, both in China and globally.

#### Why will solar prices continue to drop?

A big reason why solar prices could continue to drop is significant development in the solar industry at large. The federal solar tax credit will be in place for at least the next 10 years. That means players in the solar industry -- from installers to manufacturers -- have received a green light to invest in their operations.

# Will the cost of capital increase in solar PV & wind markets?

In real terms (i.e. excluding the impact of inflation),the weighted average cost of capital (WACC) is expected to increase most large solar PV and wind markets, excluding China. The higher cost of capital could offset most of the cost decreases resulting from lower commodity prices and further technology innovation in the next two years.

## Why are solar power plants so expensive?

The price of steel, the main construction material for both utility-scale PV and onshore wind plants, increased 75% in China, 160% in the United States and 270% in Europe, while copper and aluminium became 60-80% more expensive. The highest growth was in freight rates, which rose almost sixfold.

### Will solar PV & wind be more expensive in 2024?

Consequently, the average LCOE for utility-scale PV and wind could be 10-15% higherin 2024 than it was in 2020. Although their costs continue to exceed pre Covid-19 levels, solar PV and onshore wind remain the cheapest option for new electricity generation in most countries.

#### Will solar get more affordable?

In states that offer generous incentives to stack on top of the federal credits, Rumery expects solar to get even more affordable. But in states where that sort of policy is lacking, he said that affordability and adoption will lag. Solar panels are one expensive thing.



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