

Construction of new energy demonstration site in Costa Rica





Overview

Can solar power diversify the energy mix in Costa Rica?

While hydroelectric power dominates the energy mix at approximately 80% of electricity production, solar energy, though currently a smaller contributor, holds significant potential to diversify and stabilize the grid. This paper investigates Costa Rica's renewable energy journey, emphasizing solar power's evolving role.

How do hydroelectric plants work in Costa Rica?

Dams and hydroelectric plants capture the energy from rivers, converting it into electricity. Large-scale projects like the Reventazón Hydroelectric Plant, which began operating in 2016, significantly increased energy production. These plants provide a steady and reliable energy supply, especially during Costa Rica's rainy season.

Is Costa Rica a leader in solar energy in Central America?

Research by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, 2020) identifies Costa Rica as a potential leader in solar energy within Central America, given its high solar potential averaging 4.5-5.5 kWh/m²/day, yet notes that policy incentives lag behind those for other renewables.

Is solar energy a viable alternative to Hydro-heavy grids in Costa Rica?

Solar energy, while underexplored in Costa Rica compared to hydro and geothermal, has gained attention in recent literature. Smith and Paladino (2021) argue that solar photovoltaic (PV) systems offer a decentralized solution to complement hydro-heavy grids, reducing vulnerability to seasonal fluctuations.



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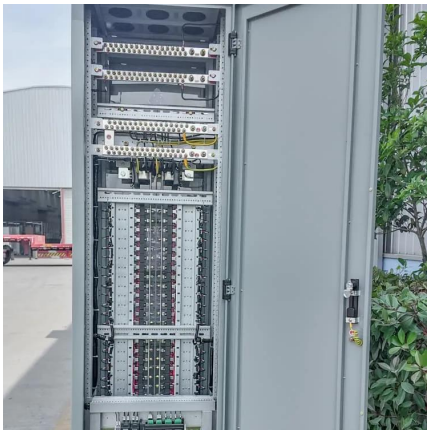
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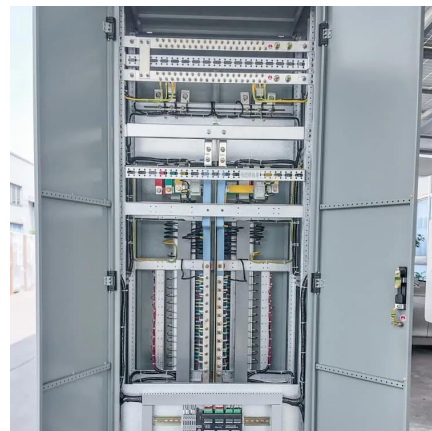
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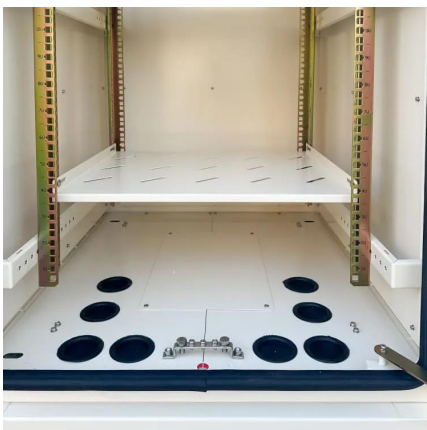
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