



Tokelau solar battery system

Can a solar array power Tokelau?

Solar Array's seen on the three tiny islands of Tokelau to completely produce solar power energy. The renewable energy system comprising of solar panels, storage batteries and generators running on biofuel derived from coconut will generate enough electricity to meet 150% of the islands' power demand.

How much electricity does a solar system provide in Tokelau?

Each system alone is among the largest off-grid solar power systems in the world, and together they are capable of providing 150% of current electricity demand in Tokelau, a much higher amount than the 90% that was originally planned for.

Why did Tokelau switch to solar?

Yet despite the challenges involved in installing comprehensive solar systems in such a remote location, switching to solar was absolutely crucial for the tiny collection of islands. "Tokelau's atolls are low-lying and especially susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change," Mayhew stressed.

Why is electricity so expensive in Tokelau?

Before the PowerSmart systems were installed on the nation's three atolls, Tokelau was highly dependent on imported fossil fuels to meet its energy needs and therefore vulnerable to international price fluctuations and increasing fuel costs, making electricity extremely expensive for both households and businesses.

What's new in Tokelau & New Zealand?

Jointly funded through the governments of Tokelau and New Zealand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the project will see an additional 210 kW solar array and 2MWh battery storage system installed on each of the three atolls: Atafu, Fakaofu and Nukunonu.

How much does a diesel generator cost in Tokelau?

Indeed, until recently, diesel generators were burning around 200 litres of fuel daily on each atoll, meaning more than 2,000 barrels of diesel were used to generate electricity in Tokelau each year, costing more than \$1m NZD.

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Tokelau's electricity grid is set for a return to reliable, renewable energy with Vector PowerSmart confirmed to build a solar and battery system to future-proof the renewable energy supply for the next decade.

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A week ago New Zealand solar systems installer PowerSmart said it had wrapped up 1 MW of solar installations that can meet 150% of the current electricity needs of Tokelau. The islands, administered by New Zealand, have a population of about 1,500 people.

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