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Pope Francis has renewables on his mind as he says he wants Vatican City to run on solar power. To achieve his aim, solar panels will be installed on a Vatican-owned property outside Rome.

In a letter to the church, the Pope said the project will be developed on Vatican-owned property outside of Rome that spans 424 hectares, adding further capacity to existing solar panel installations in the city state.

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When installing the photovoltaic panels, the challenge was to fit leading-edge technology around the fabric of the historic building. As a first step, we removed 4,800 concrete elements from the roof of the Audience Hall which had previously served to provide shade for the building.

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The Vatican already has over 2,394 photovoltaic panels installed, some of which cover the roof of the Paul VI audience hall, and generate 300MWh annually. With this latest initiative, the Pope declared that the Vatican will have complete energy independence.

Vatican City is set to become the eighth country in the world to generate 100 per cent of its electricity from renewable energy after Pope Francis announced plans to build a solar plant.

Pope Francis has commissioned an agrivoltaic plant to be located in the extraterritorial area of Santa Maria di Galeria that will ensure the complete energy sustenance of Vatican City.

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