

How can Qatar achieve a low-carbon energy future?

Qatari policymakers must balance domestic energy needs with the economic imperative to maximise hydrocarbon exports. We have modelled the optimal evolution of Qatar's electricity system over the next few decades, with the goal of quantifying the potential for solar energy (and other low-carbon technologies) in the grid.

How does Qatar's energy system work?

The Qatari energy system is designed around the production, transformation, and use of hydrocarbons, both oil and gas. The electricity and water sectors are tied to this system due to the presence of large gas-fired power stations that also produce desalinated water. These are generally called 'integrated water and power plants' (IWPPs).

What is the Qatar energy system modelling and analysis tool?

We have developed the Qatar Energy System Modelling and Analysis Tool, or QESMAT, to enable policymakers to determine the most effective investments in energy infrastructure, and plan the best export strategy, over a long-term horizon.

Can energy system modelling be used to study infrastructure in Qatar?

While other researchers have used the tools of energy system modelling to study the infrastructure of other Gulf states, our model is the first to look at the overall energy system in Qatar.

How does the EnergyPLAN model work in Qatar?

This study uses the EnergyPLAN tool to analyse Qatar's energy system. The model does this by analysing the economic and technical consequences of different resource integration and investments. EnergyPLAN is an input-output model, and its simulation procedures are described in Fig. 4.

How can Qatar export energy?

The most optimal way to export the gas is by conversion to hydrogen. However, in a world increasingly threatened by climate change, rapid decarbonization of global energy systems is a priority, and it is imperative that Qatari policymakers delink the national economy from energy exports over the long term.

Our optimization framework allows policymakers to apply a systems approach to the overall energy infrastructure in Qatar, covering a range of sectors such as industrial, residential, transportation and agriculture.

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To simulate and assess a possible transition to a ZNE regime for the Qatar energy system, the model ETEM-Qatar was developed. The model has an horizon 2100 and it covers all energy sectors including electricity, water desalination, gas and oil, industry, transport, 13 commercial and residential sectors.

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The high energy consumption in Qatar's industrial sector, combined with the significant contribution of non-energy use of fuels and feedstocks to the country's energy consumption, highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to energy efficiency and conservation in the industrial sector.

The study describes eight different case scenarios representing the year-round hourly performance of different single and hybrid renewable energy system for Qatar that would help the nation maximize its renewable energy (RE) potential.

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