

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.

Could Tokelau be the world's first renewable nation?

Solar power plants and coconut biofuel-powered generators switched on in Tokelau has made the islands the world's first truly renewable nation.' Imagine a place where the only energy to be found is clean, reliable solar power. Solar Array's seen on the three tiny islands of Tokelau to completely produce solar power energy.

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.

How many people live in Tokelau?

Tokelau is made up of three small atolls, Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu, has an area of around 10km²; and is populated by 1,411 New Zealand citizens, all of whom now have their energy needs met by solar electricity systems. 'Each system alone is among the largest off-grid solar power systems in the world.'

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.

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Tokelau, an island nation in the South Pacific, is now completely able to support itself with solar energy. Elly Earls met Joseph Mayhew of the New Zealand Aid Programme to find out how this tiny collection of atolls has become almost ...

But Tokelau couldn't afford to get itself off its expensive diesel habit by installing solar arrays to capture its near constant sunshine and use that to generate electricity instead. Until that is, the government of New Zealand, which administers the territory, found a budget somewhere to fund the \$7.2m ((#163;4.3m) project.

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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