

Does Uruguay have a renewable power grid?

Well, the South American country of Uruguay has successfully done it. In an average year, 98% of the energy used to run its power grid comes from renewable sources - hydropower, biomass, solar and lots of wind. Erika Beras from the Planet Money team interviews the architect of the plan that made this possible.

What is Uruguay's energy future?

His vision for Uruguay's energy future was to cover that empty land with hundreds of wind turbines. Today, wind power accounts for around 40% of Uruguay's energy production. And, according to a 2008 law, all the wind in the country officially belongs to the Uruguayan people.

Should Uruguay switch to green electricity?

Uruguay, one of South America's smallest countries, is attracting outsized attention over its transition to green electricity. It didn't happen simply by building a bunch of wind and solar farms, the architect of the strategy said, but by rethinking the entire energy system. And, he said, other countries could do that too.

Does Uruguay have a problem with wind energy?

In other countries, there have been problems with quality, with accountability, with corruption. The wind project in Uruguay didn't suffer from those, but it does have some critics. In the last 12 years, the price for wind energy has gone down. It's now 30 to 40% cheaper than it was then.

How much electricity does Uruguay generate?

According to 2022 data from MIEM, Uruguay generated 14,759 GWh of electricity, 13,343 GWh for internal demand and exported 1,416 GWh to Brazil and Argentina. Typically, Uruguay generates a surplus of electricity due to an excess of wind-power capacity.

Why does Uruguay generate a surplus of electricity?

Typically, Uruguay generates a surplus of electricity due to an excess of wind-power capacity. The country seeks to identify additional domestic uses for excess electricity and potentially increase exports to Argentina and Brazil.

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Uruguay was derived from renewable sources. In particular, the new diverse energy mix of the country is actually provided by hydropower for a 55,6%, wind energy for a 33,6%, biomass 6%, solar power for a 2,8% and thermal energy for a 2%. The news, sourced from UTE, the public company of the energy sector of Uruguay,

Generating 98% of its electricity from renewable sources, Uruguay"s rapid adoption and expansion of sustainable sources of energy has been lauded internationally as a model for transitioning national power systems away from fossil fuels.

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In a typical year, 98% of Uruguay"s grid is powered by green energy. How did it get there? It involved a scientist, an innovative approach to infrastructure funding, and a whole lot of wind.

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