



# Abkhazia solar energy for homes

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Although it is getting cheaper to use solar power, the energy crisis in Abkhazia continues as the authorities have decided to resume rolling blackouts for the first time this summer and in the midst of the holiday season. How about other regions in the Caucasus are they still avoiding solar power is it their solar energy profiles ?

After more than a year of unexpected blackouts, the authorities of Abkhazia initiated rolling blackouts within the state in July 2021, where during the night each region would be deprived of electricity for two hours. Two months later, in September, Abkhazia experienced an unprecedented fuel crisis, which led the government to increase fuel prices--something that did not still discourage people from attempting to fuel up, leading to enormous queues at gas stations and frustration among the locals.

A combination of postponing of duty-free fuel from Russia, the maintenance works of the Enguri Power Plant, Abkhazia's only source of electricity, and finally the crypto-mining frenzy, are deemed to be the reasons to have pushed the de facto state of South Caucasus in an energy insecurity predicament. Reflecting on this, Sukhum has moved towards discussions for a pipeline construction with Gazprom, which will be the endeavor to resolve the energy insecurity issues.

Ever since 2018, Abkhazia has emerged among the cryptocurrency champions, riding the wave of blockchain technology. The existence of abandoned Soviet factories in the size of hangars that would facilitate the large volumes of computational power needed, coupled with the minuscule pricing, puts the de facto states like Abkhazia and Transnistria in a very advantageous position for crypto mining.

Despite the fact that an increase in taxation has always been on the table, there was no final implementation of it. The main objective was that the state authorities wanted to refrain from increasing the burden on citizens that have not been benefitting from the Bitcoin frenzy.

Shortly after that meeting came an agreement with Gazprom to provide more gas to the region within a year, as part of minor adjustments that were made to the three-year "Investment Program to Promote the Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Abkhazia for 2020-2022."

Finally, the skillset of the current workers on the sector ought to be reexamined and the energy measurement to be modernized. This requires employment to people with deep knowledge and a strong scientific background, willing to provide their expertise.

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Web: <https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

