



Bangladesh energy management

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Government-owned companies in Bangladesh produce about half of the electricity generated there. The country produced 5 gigawatts in 2009 to around 25.5 gigawatts in 2022 and plan to produce up to 50 gigawatts by 2041. U.S. companies supply around 55% of Bangladesh's domestic natural gas production and are among the largest investors in power projects. 80% of Bangladesh's installed gas-fired power generation capacity comes from turbines manufactured in the United States.

In recent years, experts have raised concerns that the existing proven reserves could be extirpated by 2020 and have called for immediate exploration of new gas fields.

Bangladesh has a reserve of approximately 3 billion tons of steam grade Bituminous coal as discovered till 2003. These reserves are mainly concentrated into the five large coal fields in the northwestern regions of the country, namely Jamalganj, Barapukuria, Khalashpir, Dighipara and Phulbari.

The NEP called for conservation measures to be strictly enforced to ensure rational, economic and efficient use of energy. The major means of energy conservation have been pointed out as energy audit, reduction of wastage, demand management and efficient use. Experts have suggested to initiate the energy conservation act, which would significantly reduce the energy demand of the country.

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This final report summarizes all work done under the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Bangladesh Activity from October 2019 to May 2021. It also provides recommendations for future energy programs.

Bangladesh is on a trajectory to become a middle-income country and is striving to become a developed nation by 2041. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, forecasts pointed to increasing national demand for electricity resulting from economic and population growth. Transitioning to clean energy would allow Bangladesh to diversify its power mix, reduce the risks associated with the volatile prices of fossil fuels, and decrease the negative environmental impacts of thermal power generation.

USAID's Scaling Up Renewable Energy (SURE) program supported the Government of Bangladesh's transition to a clean energy economy from 2019 to 2021. USAID completed integrated resource planning activities for the Bangladeshi electricity and gas sectors and supported grid integration for increased uptake of variable renewable energy (VRE) and cross-border electricity trade. USAID also conducted a feasibility study



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of energy auctions for electricity procurement.

USAID assisted the government to make evidence-based decisions on generation, transmission, and distribution planning. With an optimized energy mix and an expanded energy market, Bangladesh will have more competitive power costs and, ultimately, lower tariffs for end users. SURE's work aligned with Asia EDGE (Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy) and furthered the U.S. vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific to ensure peace, stability, and growing prosperity in the region.

To date, five grid-connected solar projects with a combined capacity of 88.4 MW have been completed and 11 new solar and wind projects with cumulative capacity of 618.8 MW have been approved by the government. Building on this momentum, SURE supported energy auction-related studies for Bangladesh and developed a white paper on system-friendly renewable energy. The program also hosted four national webinars on renewable energy procurement that were attended by nearly 140 participants.

The government set an ambitious target to achieve middle-income nation status by 2021 and transform into a developed nation by 2041. However, much more still needs to be done. The country needs to speed up the adoption of renewables and of advanced and modern energy technologies. Energy agencies' institutional capacity needs to be improved. Also, the government should leverage regional capacities to strengthen energy security through trade and collaboration. In the final report, SURE make 16 specific and actionable recommendations for future energy programs.

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