Denmark residential solar

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In a short interview with pv magazine, Flemming Vejby Kristensen, from the Danish PV association Solcelleforening, explained the surprising performance achieved by Denmark’s PV market in 2021, in which around 667.6MW of PV capacity was deployed. Around 94% of this growth is coming from large scale unsubsidized solar projects and the segment’s main driver has been the willingness of big corporations to buy green electricity under bilateral PPAs.

“Around 94% of this capacity comes from utility scale solar plants built without subsidies,” Flemming Vejby Kristensen, from the Danish trade body, told pv magazine. “And the remaining share is mainly represented by commercial and industrial PV systems.”

According to provisional numbers provided by Solcelleforening, large scale solar accounted for 631.2MW of the solar power installed last year while industrial and commercial installations reached 22.6MW and residential arrays reached a total 13.8MW. For comparison, in 2020 Denmark deployed a total of 244MW, of which 202.6MW were for utility scale projects.

“In 2022 and 2023, we may see even a bigger growth,” Vejby Kristensen added. “And grid-parity PV plants will still have the lion"s share, despite rising modules prices.”

According to him, in fact, the LCOE of PV plants is not rising as much as panel and inverter prices and the fundamentals of building more solar parks without subsidies remain strong. “This was also shown by the most recent auctions held by the Danish authorities, which showed the price of solar has now become competitive with that of onshore wind,” he further explained. “And the wind industry is particularly strong here.”

Referring to the rooftop segment, Vejby Kristensen explained that current net metering rules are ensuring some good development levels, especially for commercial and industrial projects. “The current electricity prices have significantly reduced payback time for rooftop PV arrays and more growth should materialize this and next year,” he also stated, noting that current incentives for heat pumps may also become a driver for more volumes in the residential segment. “The Danish government is pushing for more heating powered by renewables.”

The scheme is open to companies specializing in district heating and offers rebates covering up to 15% of the total investment made to buy and install a heat pump, with developers being eligible for a maximum of DKK5 million (EUR672,000) for each project.

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European researchers have told pv magazine that hydrogen production costs are often underestimated in prefeasibility studies, while the South Korean authorities have reported a rise in deals for large-scale hydrogen consumption projects.

German engine manufacturer MAN Energy Solutions" CO2-based seawater heat pump, located in the Danish port city of Esbjerg, has started operation. The facility, with a total heating capacity of 70 MW, will provide climate-neutral heat to Esbjerg and neighbouring town Varde.

CapMan Real Estate has unveiled plans for a 7,500 sqm rooftop solar installation, billed as Scandinavia"s biggest integrated solar roof project to date, in Copenhagen. Solartag, a Danish solar-integrated roof specialist, is supplying the solar panels for the 750 kW array.