

Denmark solar energy

There is great potential for harnessing solar energy in Denmark. At the same time, the costs associated with producing electricity from solar PV (photovoltaics) have dropped significantly in recent years, and solar PV are now one of the most cost-effective and competitive ways of producing electricity. In addition, solar energy is a good complement to wind energy, since the sun often shines when there is no wind. Solar energy, therefore, plays a key role in realizing Denmark's ambition of covering our net electricity consumption with 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Every quarter, the Danish Energy Agency publishes a solar PV inventory describing the status of the expansion of solar PV in Denmark. The latest version can be found below and shows a total expansion of solar PV in Denmark of more than 3.3 GW as of 1 July 2023.. The installations consist of both large installations in the open country as well as smaller installations, mainly on rooftop.

In 2022, 6.1 % of the total Danish electricity consumption came from solar PV, and within the next few years it is expected, according to the Danish Energy Agency's analysis requirements for Energinet 2022, that solar PV will make up approximately 12 % of net electricity consumption, of which the largest expansion is expected to come from larger commercial field installations.

The green transition in Denmark began with the oil crisis back in the 70s and decades of development have made Denmark a frontrunner when it comes to wind and solar power - a position that is used to share experiences and help other countries embark on the same green journey.

Energinet is the independent state-owned enterprise that owns, operates and develops the transmission systems for electricity and natural gas in Denmark. The significant share of green energy in the Danish electricity sector is a result of ambitious strategies laid down in the early 70s, Peter Jørgensen considers. These last few decades of developing wind power and renewable energy have put Denmark at the very front when it comes to green transition in the energy sector.

"In many larger countries Denmark is almost considered a little laboratory. If we compare ourselves to China with whom we share a lot of the Danish experience, you see Denmark as a small laboratory where we develop and test the new solutions," Peter Jørgensen says.

One of the biggest challenges in the world today in relation to climate change is the growing demand for energy globally. This makes it even more crucial to find sustainable alternatives to fossil energy and there's an increasing interest in Danish solutions such as wind power technology. Denmark has the position and knowledge to help other countries around the world move faster towards a green transition.

"The transition in Denmark started more or less 30 years ago with wind power. So all the procedures,

methodologies, the market and the framework have been developed gradually over all these years where we gained the necessary experience to find the right solutions," he believes. But sharing the experiences from Denmark can help set other countries on the right track from the beginning.

"The benefit from now sharing our experience globally with many countries around the world is actually that it enables them to do some leapfrogging. They don't necessarily have to make the same mistakes and go through the same phases as we did in Denmark," he claims.

"Ever since then Denmark has been very ambitious on setting goals for energy efficiency and on turning Denmark into a country more independent on fossil fuels," Peter Jørgensen says.

"The government and parliament at the time had to take some very, very harsh measures to make Danes understand that this was an extraordinary situation. We had to cut down on our energy consumption, and I think some really interesting and far-reaching decisions were taken back then, namely to start focusing on renewable energy and on energy conservation or energy efficiency," Finn Mortensen states.

Danish Energy Agency has published monthly energy production and consumption statistics, which are available online in excel format. (Latest version: September 2024. Next version for October 2024 will be available December 12th 2024).

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