

Electricity policy accra

Solar and biogas technologies are fit for adoption in informal settlements but have limited adoption due to many barriers, including cost, knowledge, technical expertise, financial support, and others.

In the Global South, most equipment for alternative energy sources is imported, which attracts tariffs and import duties. It is imperative to reduce or eliminate the tariffs and import duties on renewable energy equipment to stimulate investment and motivate people to acquire them.

Our focus is to create a strong connection between research evidence and advocacy to increase transparency and accountability around energy & extractive sector governance in the region.

After a decade-plus of existence, we have established ourself as a thought leader in the sector and hope to consolidate the gains made over the period by unpacking the link between resource extraction and inclusive, sustainable development.

Climate change poses an existential threat to people's social, economic, and environmental well-being worldwide, with Africa, particularly Ghana, being disproportionately…

Ghana's energy mix consists of a combination of hydroelectric, thermal (predominantly fuelled by natural gas, heavy fuel oil, light crude oil and diesel fuel oil)[i] and renewable energy[ii] sources.[iii]

Thermal and hydroelectric sources represent approximately 99% of the generation capacity in the country. In 2022, the total power generated was 23,163GWH, of which 8,192GWH (35.4%) was from hydro sources and 14,810GWH (63.9%) from thermal sources.[iv] The remaining 162GWH of power generated (representing approximately 0.70% of the total power generated) was sourced from other renewable sources, a significant increase from 2021 and the highest yearly share in Ghana's energy mix to date.[v]

Hydroelectricity is generated from three power plants: the Akosombo and Kpong Generation Stations, operated by the state-owned Volta River Authority ("VRA"); and the Bui Generation Station, operated by the state-owned Bui Power Authority ("BPA"). The BPA has also completed and commissioned Ghana's first micro-hydropower plant at Tsatsadu in the Volta Region.[vi] This is a run-of-river hydro plant that currently has an installed capacity of 45kW.[vii]

Thermal power is generated from a combination of private and public sector outputs operated by the VRA and a variety of Independent Power Producers ("IPPs"). Three state-owned and six[viii] privately owned plants generate energy from the eastern enclave of the National Interconnected Transmission System (the "national grid"), while two state-owned and three privately owned plants generate power from the western enclave of the national grid.[ix]

Generation capacity in Ghana continued to outweigh demand in 2022 as a result of measures taken between 2014 and 2017 to address major energy shortfalls that occurred over the period. By the end of 2022, Ghana had an installed power generation capacity of 5,454MW, with a dependable capacity of 4,843MW[x] and a peak demand of 3,469MW.[xi]

In 2022, the external shocks of the Russia/Ukraine crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing fiscal and debt vulnerabilities, resulting in credit rating downgrades, a loss of access to international capital markets, and the exit of non-resident investors from the domestic bond market.[xii] The Ghanaian cedi suffered significant depreciation, losing around 40% of its value against the dollar, inflation hit record highs, and GDP growth slowed from 5.4% in 2021 to 3.2% in 2022.[xiii]

Despite these difficult economic conditions, electricity demand continued to grow, with an increase of almost 7% in peak system demand over 2021[xiv] and an increase in total annual consumption of 3.8% from 2021 to 17,547GWH in 2022.[xv] Interestingly, Ghana's net electricity export also rose significantly from 2017 to 2022, reaching its highest point of 2,177GWH in 2022.[xvi]

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