

## Ljubljana solar industry

Ljubljana has entered into a public-private partnership to install solar panels on the roofs of 51 municipal buildings in less than a year in a project valued at around EUR5 million.

The concession contract was concluded for 17 years, after which the solar units will be fully owned by the municipality, the city's energy official Petra Žeme said.

The private partner has until 1 July 2024 to complete the project, which will provide the municipality with green energy and allow it to manage electricity shortages.

Energetika Ljubljana CEO Samo Lozej said the new solar venture was a reference project for the company and Resalta director Luka Komazec described it as Resalta's most important one.

By implementing a monthly net metering system, the municipality will almost completely avoid the risk of a negative electricity price in the summer months, when the production of solar power is at its highest.

Roughly one-third of Slovenia's electricity comes from hydroelectric sources, one-third from thermal sources, and one-third from nuclear power (with non-hydro renewables constituting two percent of the total). Almost half of Slovenia's total energy consumption consists of imported petroleum purchased on global markets.

Slovenia currently operates one coal-fired thermal power plant - the 600 MW Thermal Power Plant Šoštanj sixth unit (TEŠ), which came into operation in 2014. In January 2022, Slovenian government adopted a national strategy to phase out coal by 2033, adopting a more ambitious timeline than was initially considered. The phase out of coal would include the premature closure of the TEŠ sixth unit, which has a lifecycle until 2054. Now with a clear phaseout timeline, Slovenia can begin drawing EUR 248.38 million from the EU Just Transition Fund.

The Slovenian government has identified green transformation as a priority for its national recovery and resilience plan, allocating at least 43 percent of the EUR 2.5 billion funds requested from the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility toward this transformation. These efforts will include improving energy efficiency in buildings, increasing the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix, and increasing public transport options.

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