

Paraguay utility-scale solar

Paraguay has launched an ambitious energy policy, targeting a diverse, sustainable energy mix by 2050. Focusing on solar, hydrogen fuel, and biofuels, the country aims to secure energy independence and reduce reliance on hydrocarbons.

The Paraguayan government unveiled a transformative energy policy to reshape the country's energy landscape by 2050. Signed into action by President Santiago Peña, this initiative sets the stage for Paraguay to diversify its energy generation and embrace sustainable alternatives such as solar energy, hydrogen fuel, and biofuels. The decree, officially titled 2.553/24, is a critical step in Paraguay's vision to reduce its dependency on hydrocarbons and align with global energy transition efforts.

The government's decision follows a comprehensive review of the nation's energy sector, identifying nearly 300 long-term goals to ensure Paraguay's energy security. Mauricio Bejarano, Vice Minister of Mines and Energy, emphasized that these objectives are not merely aspirational but part of a robust plan to prepare the country for future energy demands.

"To achieve energy security, we are committed to diversifying our generation matrix," Bejarano said, signaling the government's commitment to transitioning from traditional energy sources to a broader mix of renewable and alternative energies. The policy is expected to enhance Paraguay's energy resilience, foster innovation, and contribute to global sustainability goals.

Paraguay has long been known for its reliance on renewable energy. Nearly 100% of its electricity is generated from hydropower, mainly through the Itaipu and Yacyreté dams. While this provides a solid foundation for clean energy, the government recognizes the need to broaden its energy portfolio to ensure long-term sustainability and meet growing demands.

The new energy policy marks a significant shift in focus, with plans to introduce solar power and bioenergy into the national energy mix. Solar energy, in particular, is seen as a vital addition, taking advantage of Paraguay's abundant sunlight to reduce pressure on its hydropower resources. The government also plans to harness bioenergy through biomass and biogases, tapping into organic waste and agricultural byproducts as fuel sources.

Bejarano noted that one key strategy is to reduce the country's consumption of hydrocarbons primarily used in transportation. By promoting biofuels, Paraguay aims to cut carbon emissions and reduce its reliance on imported fossil fuels. The shift toward biofuels is part of a broader "energy transition" that the government sees as crucial to modernizing the country's energy infrastructure.

"We aim to reduce hydrocarbon consumption, which is why we focus on biofuels," Bejarano

explained. This will allow Paraguay to move closer to its decarbonization goals while promoting energy independence.

A critical component of Paraguay's energy vision is hydrogen fuel production. The country's rivers, especially the Paran? and Paraguay, are vital trade routes and key to the country's energy strategy. Approximately 80% of Paraguay's foreign trade passes through these rivers, providing a direct link to the Atlantic Ocean. The government aims to “decarbonize the waterway” by promoting hydrogen-based fuels for ships and other transport vessels operating along these routes.

Hydrogen fuel has been hailed as a game-changer in the global energy transition due to its potential as a clean and abundant energy source. Paraguay aims to position itself as a regional leader in hydrogen production, providing a sustainable alternative to the fossil fuels currently used in transportation and industrial processes.

The government's long-term plan includes developing infrastructure to produce and distribute hydrogen fuel on a large scale. This would benefit domestic industries and open up new opportunities for energy exports, potentially turning Paraguay into a hub for hydrogen fuel in Latin America.

“Hydrogen is the future,” Bejarano stated, highlighting the country's ambitions to develop hydrogen-based energy solutions over the next few decades. This focus on innovation aligns with global trends and sets Paraguay on a path to becoming a key player in the renewable energy market.

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