

Solar energy for the environment tunis city

Title:Support the implementation of the Tunisian Solar PlanCommissioned by:German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)Country: TunisiaLead executing agency:Ministry of Energy, Mines and Energy Transition (MEMTE)Overall term:2015 to2021

In May 2005, the Tunisian Government passed a law promoting electricity generation from renewable sources. A government decision in 2016 and further implementing provisions brought the law into effect.

The law provides for 30 per cent of electricity to be produced from renewable energy sources by 2030: an ambitious goal, since the current share is 3 per cent. The rest of the country's electricity is produced by natural gas.

Furthermore, the Tunisian Government is committed under the Paris Agreement to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).These provide for a 41 per cent reduction in the country's emissions by 2030.The energy sector, which in 2012 was responsible for more than half of Tunisia's greenhouse gas emissions, will have to make the largest contribution.

The Tunisian Government is successfully implementing the Tunisian Solar Plan (TSP), developing renewable energy on a large scale and complying with the agreed climate protection contributions.

The project provides policy advice with the support of national and international technical, financial and legal experts. It aims to develop effective regulations and structures, as well as to build and optimise tendering procedures to attract private national and international capital for renewable energy in Tunisia.

Through continuing education and professional training courses, specialists and managers from participating institutions and Tunisian private businesses are improving their skills to help implement the TSP. Internationally recognised experts are instructing them in the requisite methods and equipping them with new software tools.

The project is also setting up a financing agreement with Tunisian universities to build a specialist network for macro-economic analysis. This is aimed at supporting policy-makers in their ongoing efforts to adapt the energy and low-emissions strategy.

Tunisia wants to accelerate the diversification of its electricity mix. At a recent workshop on the theme of renewable energy, the Tunisian Minister of Industry, Energy and Mines, Neila Noura Gongi announced the establishment of a national strategy for solar energy. The Tunisian government's goal is to develop an installed capacity of 3,800 MW of solar energy.

In 2018, Tunisia had an installed capacity of 5,476 MW. This park, mainly made up of thermal power plants, is a large consumer of natural gas. Given the decline in natural gas production (-36% during the period 2010-2018 according to the government), this high dependence on this fuel now poses a serious problem for the security of electricity production. In Tunisia, 97% of electricity is produced from natural gas; the share of renewable energy has not exceeded 3%, according to the National Agency for Energy Management (ANME).

Since then, the situation has not changed much, except for the commissioning of a solar photovoltaic plant in Tozeur (10 MWp) and the increase in international gas costs due to the post-Covid-19 economic recovery. The strategy to develop 3,800 MW of solar energy should increase the share of clean energy in the Tunisian electricity mix by 30% according to Minister Neila Nouria Gongi.

Gas consumption should also fall by 30%. The implementation of this policy will be conditioned by the achievement of structural reforms. The Minister plans to create a regulatory body for the electricity sector and to publish a magazine dedicated to renewable energy.

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