

Solar storage vatican city

In a public statement, Pope Francis called for an agrivoltaics plant to be built in the Santa Maria Galeria area, northwest of Rome, outside the Vatican walls. The area belongs to the Vatican and hosts its radio station, which will also be powered by the solar site.

The Pope said; "We need to make a transition towards a sustainable development model that reduces greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, setting the objective of climate neutrality." The decision built on his 2015 "Laudato Si" letter, which emphasised a need to address climate change on humanity's "common home".

The task of delivering the agrivoltaics project was given to two cardinals who serve as the governor of the Vatican City and the president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See (APSA), which deals with the state's funds.

The Vatican City, which is home to the headquarters of the global Catholic church, is the smallest state in the world. The main audience hall in the Vatican already has a solar installation on its roof, installed in 2008.

Italy - the country surrounding the Vatican state - recently announced a ban on solar deployments on agricultural land, which many took to effectively be a ban on some agrivoltaics projects. This publication spoke with two legal and industry experts earlier this month, who said that the proposed ban contains "contradictions".

In the apostolic letter "Brother Sun," the pontiff announced the agrivoltaic system for the complete energy sustenance of the country. The plant will be built in the countryside of Rome's 49th district.

Pope Francis has commissioned an agrivoltaic plant to be located in the extraterritorial area of Santa Maria di Galeria that will ensure the complete energy sustenance of Vatican City.

The smallest country in the world has already installed over 2,000 PV panels on the roof of one of its main buildings. Since its installation in 2008, the Papal State has produced 300 MWh of solar energy per year. The panels are not visible from the ground. The project was planned and managed by BayWa r.e., while the PV modules, inverters and installation were donated by solar technology provider SolarWorld.

"Humanity has the technological means necessary to face this environmental transformation and its pernicious ethical, social, economic and political consequences and, among these, solar energy plays a fundamental role," Francis wrote in the letter "Brother Sun," which implicitly refers to the life and works of Saint Francis of Assisi.

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Solar energy plays an essential role in Pope Francis' strategy to address climate change. Since his 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si'," the Pope has been a firm defender of climate action and repeatedly appealed to the international community to take swifter and more decisive measures.

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