

Thermal energy storage east timor

GOAL: to promote an understanding, on a global scale, of the dynamics of change in energy systems, quantify emissions and their impacts, and accelerate the transition to carbon-neutral, environmentally benign energy systems while providing affordable energy to all.

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This group brings together the best thinkers on energy and climate. Join us for smart, insightful posts and conversations about where the energy industry is and where it is going.

I am professional energy journalist, writer and editor who has been chronicling the renewables and fossil fuel energy sectors since 2008. I am passionate about the energy transition, so much so...

East Timor has scrapped a failed plan to export LNG, only to launch another dubious gas-based solution to decarbonise the island's tiny power grid. Surely wind, solar and batteries present a more cost effective and cleaner option than LNG imports, even in today's well-supplied LNG market?

How much consideration has also been given to the geopolitical issues of being reliant on imported fuels (not to mention logistical, as we've seen in the U.S. when storms knock out oil refining or imports into the Gulf)?

There is a geopolitical angle in there, with potential involvement of US Embassy in the project. From the article: "China's growing presence in the region spooks the State Department and some Australian politicians too, so an American-funded regasification terminal fed by US LNG could form a bulwark against Beijing's burgeoning sphere of influence. As things stand that remains a highly distant possibility, but when an infrastructure project acquires a geopolitical dimension this can skew the priorities of host governments."

"Replacing Timor-Leste's three thermal power generators – which together are less than 270 MW – with a combination of wind, solar power and battery storage does not seem to have been considered, despite plunging costs and Timor's abundant renewable resources."

Bob, importing LNG to meet a demand anchor of <270MW makes no economic sense. You need a much larger load to justify the capital investment in the terminal and regasification facilities. Locking a small developing island nation into fossil fuel imports for 20+ years and putting it at the mercy of global commodity markets doesn't seem to be a very wise move, climate change or not.



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Renewables + storage can and will be viable for small, isolated grids in sunny windy locations such as such as Timor much sooner than many mainstream analysts predict. What's the alternative, leave the plants running on expensive and dirty heavy fuel oil?

Seb, there is no grid, municipality, or microgrid in the world that runs on "renewables + batteries". Though the mainstream analysts at battery manufacturers are more than happy to take advantage of that comfortable fantasy, a fantasy it will remain.

Maybe it's necessary to have lived in an area with unreliable electricity to appreciate why "not a matter of cost: batteries and solar panels could be free, and it will still never happen. Why? Whether you live in East Timor or Syracuse, allowing all lights, computers and cell phones to go dark - in hospitals, police stations, factories, banks, and businesses, for an indefinite period of time - is not an option.

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Web: <https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

