

Cuban metro stations use 5MWh off-grid solar-powered containers



Overview

Could more solar power boost Cuba's electric grid?

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba's large-scale blackouts that left 10 million people without power this month may not have happened if the government had built out more solar power to boost its failing electric grid as promised, some experts say.

Can solar power solve Cuba's energy problems?

In a nation with plentiful sunshine, Cuban officials have long had the opportunity to encourage solar power as one solution to national energy problems. But October's sweeping outages — the island's worst power failure in years — show little progress has been made.

How much solar power does Cuba have in 2022?

The whole country had only 252 megawatts of solar power at the end of 2022. Kavulich said even China has its limits. The view of China's private sector, he said, is that Cuba "seems to make no effort whatsoever to pay money that it owes." "The Cuban utility is the only buyer and it's a risky investment," said Whittle.

Is Cuba a good candidate for solar?

Besides the strong sunlight, there is another way that Cuba is a good candidate for solar. A significant share of its electricity comes from smaller power plants distributed around the country. Solar could be added or switched out in those locations. But it hasn't happened yet.

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By 2025, 200 MW of battery systems will be installed to store solar energy, key to stabilizing the grid. Containers are already in Cuba, awaiting assembly.

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