



Can solar power solve North Korea's energy problems?

Jeong-hyeon, a North Korean escapee, told the Financial Times that many residents in Hamhung, the second-most populous city, "relied on a solar panel, a battery and a power generator to light their houses and power their television". But solar power is still only a partial solution to the country's energy woes.

Does North Korea have energy security challenges?

Access to solar panels has created capacity where the state falls short, but the overall energy security challenges facing the nation are daunting. This report, "North Korea's Energy Sector," is a compilation of articles published on 38 North in 2023 that surveyed North Korea's energy production facilities and infrastructure.

Does North Korea need solar power?

North Korea is increasingly turning to solar power to help meet its energy needs, as the isolated regime seeks to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels amid chronic power shortages.

Does North Korea have a two-tier energy system?

Under North Korea's two-tier energy system, which prioritises industrial facilities, the only way for many citizens to access electricity is to pay state functionaries to allow them to install cables to siphon off power from local factories.

Does North Korea have energy problems?

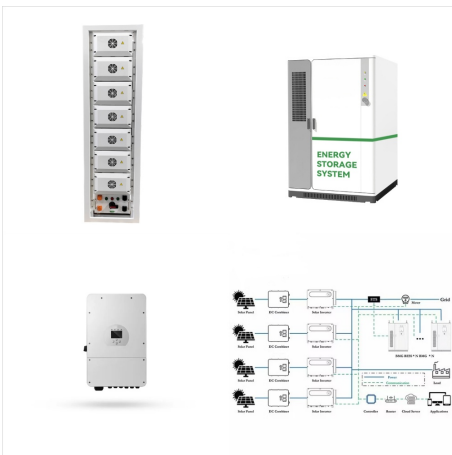
A History of Problems North Korea's energy problems--and the state's promises to fix them--are almost as old as the country itself. After the liberation of the Korean Peninsula from Japanese colonialism in 1945, the northern half of the peninsula relied on its abundant water resources to generate electricity.

Does North Korea have a power shortage?

North Korea suffers from chronic energy shortages. Rolling blackouts are common, even in the nation's capital, while some of the poorest citizens receive state-provided electricity only once a year.



In this installment of our series on North Korea's energy sector, we move away from official and commercial uses of solar and seek to understand the growing use of solar power for personal energy consumption in a country where its people still suffer from an unreliable power supply nationwide.



This compilation of articles explores North Korea's energy security challenges and chronic electricity shortages by utilizing commercial satellite imagery, state media and other sources to survey the nation's energy production facilities and infrastructure.



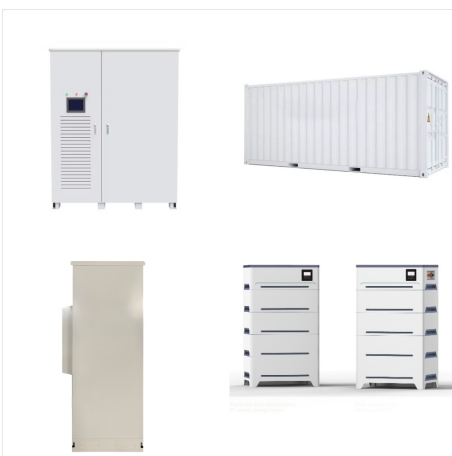
Prioritizing the development of off-grid renewable energy in North Korea, such as solar panels and wind turbines, near under-electrified rural areas will provide a more significant number of North Koreans with access to energy.



Prioritizing the development of off-grid renewable energy in North Korea, such as solar panels and wind turbines, near under-electrified rural areas will provide a more significant number of North Koreans with access to ???



4 ? It leverages commercial satellite imagery, insights from North Korean state media, and other reports and anecdotal evidence to help inform public understanding of the country's energy landscape and the challenges it faces ???



North Korea is a net energy exporter. Primary energy use in North Korea was 224 TWh and 9 TWh per million people in 2009. [1] The country's primary sources of power are hydro and coal after Kim Jong Il implemented plans that saw the construction of large hydroelectric power stations across the country. [2] According to The World Bank, in 2021



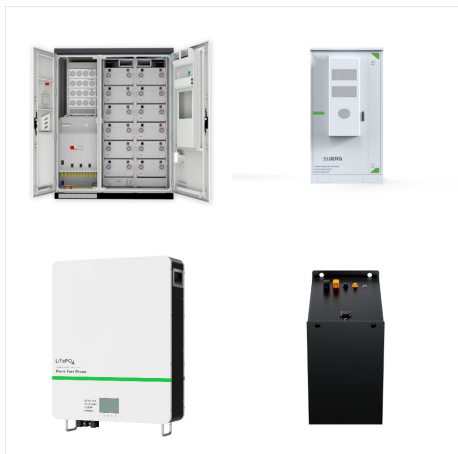
In this new series, 38 North will look at the current state of North Korea's energy sector, including the country's major hydro and fossil fuel power stations, the state's push for local-scale hydro, the growing use of renewable ???



In this installment of our series on North Korea's energy sector, we move away from official and commercial uses of solar and seek to understand the growing use of solar power for personal energy consumption in a country ???



4 ? It leverages commercial satellite imagery, insights from North Korean state media, and other reports and anecdotal evidence to help inform public understanding of the country's energy landscape and the challenges it faces in trying to better meet the needs of its people.



Solar power is one potential solution to the current energy shortage in North Korea; however, owing to large spatial variance in solar energy resources in North Korea, further analysis of its mountainous terrain is necessary.



In this new series, 38 North will look at the current state of North Korea's energy sector, including the country's major hydro and fossil fuel power stations, the state's push for local-scale hydro, the growing use of renewable energy and research and development into new energy sources.