

In 2022,63 investor expressed interest in the third 11 MW solar project in the remote islands of Maldives, and a record low price of 9.8 US centswas received. This is one of the lowest tariffs for any small island developing state (SIDS).

Will a 5 MW solar installation make Maldives a popular destination?

Now, one of the first sightsfor any of the 1.7 million tourists visiting the Maldives will be that of the 5 MW solar installation on the highway linking the airport island to Male and its satellite town of Hulhumale.

What are Maldives doing besides solar?

Besides solar energy, Maldives is setting up an 8MW wasteto-energy plantwith assistance from the Asian Development Bank. They also have a pilot on wave energy and are mulling over project proposals on ocean thermal energy conversion, or OTEC. Maldives plans a push for electric vehicles and is seriously looking at the option of green hydrogen. Maldives is not just focusing on solar energy.

Should investors invest in sustainable solar projects in the Maldives?

In 2014, the first 1.5 MW solar project under ASPIRE only had four investors bids, and resulted in a high power purchase price (PPA) of 21 US cents per unit of electricity, indicating a lack of interest from investors in investing in sustainable projects in the Maldives.

What are the challenges facing solar projects in Maldives?

Challenges facing such projects include integrating solar with existing power sources on the grid, off-taker risk, weak procurement, and planning capacity. The objective of the ASPIRE project is to increase photo voltaic (PV) generation in Maldives through private-sector investment. Approved in 2020, the ARISE Project scaled up this process.

Where are floating solar systems located in Maldives?

The first floating solar system in Maldives went into operation in 2014 and is located in lagoon areas where there are no coral patches. Q: Are you still working towards the 20% renewables share target, as outlined in the Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023?





The government has given the green light to the country's first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project, a 150-megawatt renewable energy initiative. This decision marks a significant step towards the nation's commitment to sustainable energy.



World Bank-financed projects ASPIRE and ARISE support the Maldives" energy transition by installing more than 53.5 megawatts of solar capacity and 50-megawatt hours of battery storage. This will reduce Maldives" annual import bill by about \$30 million, with a project lifetime saving of \$756 million over 25 years.



Applications for the installation of rooftop solar panels can be submitted via a portal introduced for the purpose. There are two payment methods for the solar panels purchased under the program; a one-off payment and installments spanning three or five years.





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Currently, the economy of the Maldives is largely driven by the tourism and hospitality industry. Investing in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, ocean current and wave energy can help make the Maldivian economy more resilient by creating higher-value financial and business opportunities.