



Zambia wants solar power for home use

In a landmark development for Zambia's energy future, the country's largest solar initiative the Ngwenya Solar Project has officially reached financial close, unlocking over \$100 million in funding and setting the stage for a 100-megawatt (MW) solar farm that will power thousands of In sunny Zambia, fewer than 6% of rural people have access to electricity, leaving over 94% in darkness. Zambia could tap into solar power to light up its rural areas, but this potential has yet to be exploited. So far, only 3.23% of its installed electricity generation capacity is solar based. As Zambia continues to grapple with crippling load shedding that has plunged homes and businesses into darkness, Youth Alliance Zambia (YAZ) has called on government to think beyond temporary solutions and embrace solar energy as a sustainable alternative. In an impassioned appeal, YAZ President Zambia currently relies on hydropower for 80% its electricity generation, but recent droughts have shown the limitations of this energy source. In collaboration with the World Bank, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Africa Minigrad Development Association (AMDA), and Zambia is taking a bold step toward renewable energy with a \$500 million solar drive that aims to bring clean power to 130,000 households. Spearheaded by ZESCO, the state-owned utility, the initiative is part of a broader Presidential Solar Directive to expand access to sustainable electricity and This policy note explores the role of solar home systems (SHS) in tackling Zambia's electricity access challenge. Electricity access in Zambia stands at 80.3% among urban households but only 34% among rural households. SHS offer a relatively low-cost lighting source for isolated rural households In sunny Zambia, fewer than 6% of rural people have access to electricity, leaving over 94% in darkness. Zambia could tap into solar power to light up its rural areas, but this potential has yet to be exploited. So far, only 3.23% of its installed electricity generation capacity is solar-based. Solar power in Zambia: 'If it works for my We set out to explore how rural Zambian people make decisions about whether to adopt solar power or not. Over six months, we interviewed 58 people in three remote rural regions of Zambia. YAZ urges government to power Zambia with solar Economists and energy experts have long argued that Zambia's overreliance on hydroelectric power makes the country vulnerable to climate shocks. Several stakeholders, Solar Mini Grids and Off-Grid Systems Could Bring Electricity to "Our target is to have at least 200 solar mini-grids operational by , ensuring that every rural district in Zambia has access to clean, affordable, and reliable electricity," said Zambia Launches \$500 Million Solar Energy Initiative to Power Zambia is taking a bold step toward renewable energy with a \$500 million solar drive that aims to bring clean power to 130,000 households. Expanding electricity access through solar home systems in Table 1 presents estimated LCOEs for power sources in Zambia and reveals that solar power is among the most competitive. However, please note that these estimates are for large-scale Zambia Commissions First 100MW Solar Plant to Power 90,000 Zambia has commissioned its first large-scale solar power facility, a 100-megawatt (MW) plant in Chisamba, marking a major milestone in the nation's renewable energy ambitions. Solar power in Zambia: "If it works for my neighbour, I'll try it too."We set out to explore how rural Zambian people make decisions about whether to adopt solar power or not.



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