



North korea community microgrids

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This proposal outlines the needs of the North Korean people, the justifications for helping them, and the specific steps that should be taken by both the public and private sectors to reduce the scale of the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

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, 52.63% of North Korea's population had access to electricity.³ Many households are restricted to 2 hours' power per day due to priority being given to manufacturing plants.⁴

According to statistics compiled by the South Korean agency, Statistics Korea, based on International Energy Agency (IEA) data, per capita electricity consumption fell from its peak in 1990 of 1247 kilowatt hours to a low of 712 kilowatt hours in 2000. It has slowly risen since to 819 kilowatt hours in 2008, a level below that of 1970.¹⁰

In 2017 many homes were using small standalone photovoltaic systems.¹² In 2019 it was estimated 55% of North Korean households used solar panels.¹⁴

By 2019, electricity production had reached a level where any supply blackouts were of relatively short durations.¹⁵

North Korea imports jet fuel, diesel fuel, and gasoline from two refineries in Dalian, China, which arrive at the North Korean port of Nampo.¹⁶



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