

Solar energy policy colombia

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Colombia has emerged as a leader in clean energy transition policy making and is an inspiring example of a fossil fuel producing country committed to climate action, based on a long-term decarbonisation pathway and a policy of energy and economic diversification

The potential of solar energy at a global level in Colombia is 4.5 kW h/m²/day and the area with an optimal solar resource is the Peninsula de la Guajira, with 6 kW h/m²/day of radiation, surpassing the world average of 3.9 kW h/m²/day.

This brief provides a snapshot of the renewables landscape for wind and solar in Colombia as of 2022. The authors discuss current legislation and financing intended to help move the country closer to its potential for renewable energy sources, as well as regulation regarding societal and environmental impacts. They also provide an overview of institutions and civil society stakeholders active in renewables.

Colombia's rich wind and solar energy potential is estimated at 30 GW and 32 GW, respectively, according to SER Colombia, which is more than Colombia's current installed capacity of 18.8 GW. Of particular interest is La Guajira region, with world-class wind resources (average wind speeds of 9.8 m/s) and 18 GW of Colombia's wind power potential. However, this potential has remained to a large extent untapped: the country's operating installed capacity for solar in 2022 was 290 MW and for wind 18.4 MW representing 1.5% and 0.1% of the capacity mix, respectively.

Transmission and distribution The national transmission system consists of around 28 000 km of transmission lines. There are 16 transmission system operators (transcos), which own and operate the transmission networks. The largest part of the network, 70%, is owned and operated by the state-owned Transco ISA. All transmission lines built before 2001 are regulated. Since 1999, Colombia organises auctions for new transmission projects to which both new entrants and incumbent transcos can participate.

Colombia has transmission constraints between the centre and the north of the country and in the transmission and distribution networks of Distco Electricaribe (at or below 110 kV). Market decoupling can occur during congestion. The weak transmission infrastructure is also a major barrier to the development and system



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integration of renewable energy, notable wind power in the north of the country. There are 37 distribution companies in Colombia, which own and operate distribution networks as a regulated natural monopoly. Open access to the distribution network is established.

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