

Tallinn solar energy storage

„Cities generate ca 70% of the world's carbon footprint, which is why the green transition in the cities is particularly important. Tallinn is the European Green Capital in 2023 and its program is based on the desire to implement projects with a long-term impact. It is important to us that our investments make the environment greener. The new solar park will directly help to reduce Tallinn's carbon footprint, and since the investment decision was made this year, we decided to name it the European Green Capital solar park," said Priit Koit, CEO of the Utilitas group.

The solar park has a capacity of 9.3 MW. It consists of 15,600 panels and covers a total of 11 hectares in the territory of the former V?o limestone quarry. Double-sided solar panels are combined with single axis trackers, and thus the period during which the solar park produces electricity is extended. Utilitas invests 8 million euros in the construction of the new solar park.

In order to make the urban environment greener and to improve the quality of people's working and living milieu, nearly 5,000 trees will be planted in the western, northern and eastern sides of the solar park. Utilitas has already started preparatory construction works and the solar park will be completed in April next year.

The new solar park complements the already existing V?o energy complex of Utilitas, where green energy is produced in two combined heat and power plants, and in one smaller solar park. Next year, both green hydrogen production, fueling station and heat storage solution will be added to the complex. The most efficient and greenest energy system is one, where production and consumption are located as close as possible to each other, and different types of energy such as heat, electricity and fuels are produced together.

EIC provided EUR 5.2 million in funding for ten pilot energy storage projects. Utilitas Tallinn, Utilitas Estonia, Sunly Solar, Prategli Invest, Five Wind Energy, and Eesti Energia each received a grant to begin implementing renewable energy storage device projects across Estonia.

"Estonia's plan is to produce 100% of its annual electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030. Renewable energy is good for the consumer and gives businesses a competitive advantage through a smaller environmental footprint. Renewable energy requires a balance between storage and manageable capacities in the system. In terms of the climate, the creation of storage capacity is a good way to increase clean and affordable energy production," says Climate Minister Kristen Michal.

Kristjan Kalda, the EIC's Project Coordinator for Energy, explains that by supporting the installation of storage devices, we are helping to accelerate development of the energy storage market. "The ten pilot projects that have received a grant will also show other interested parties whether the storage devices can be used and how," says Kalda.

Two projects will begin to store both solar and wind energy ve Wind Energy O? was awarded a EUR 720,000 grant to set up a battery storage system for wind and solar energy in Saaremaa. The storage devices will help ensure the stability of the electricity grid and the use of renewable energy in the work of Baltic Workboats AS. Eesti Energia AS was awarded a grant of EUR 1 million to build a 4MW/8MWh battery storage system at the Purtse wind and solar hybrid farm, in Ida-Viru County. All of the projects that were awarded grants can be found on the EIC website.

Companies registered in Estonia, which own a renewable energy production unit and are not prohibited by law from owning or operating an energy storage device, were eligible to apply for a grant. Grants were awarded for the installation of heat storage devices by heat companies, and electricity storage facilities by businesses.

The grant funds originate from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the grant was developed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications in cooperation with the EIC.

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