



# What is Ghana's solar power potential

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Every square meter (1m<sup>2</sup>) of the earth's surface, when exposed to direct sunlight, receives about 1000 watts (1 kilowatt) of energy from the sun's light. In reality, this power per hour for every square meter (1m<sup>2</sup>) might be more or less, depending on the angle of sunlight, which changes with the time of day, and the geographical location. On average, the sub-Saharan region of Africa receives about (3 - 4 kilowatt per hour) of solar energy.

(kWh/m<sup>2</sup>-day)%

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5.58-15.9Wa5.5205.729-3.7Akim Oda4.5675.177-13.3Wenchi5.0205.093-1.5Ho5.1225.223-2.0Kete  
Krachi5.2805.345-1.3Takoradi5.0115.200-3.8Yendi5.3705.632-4.8Bole5.3235.570-4.6

With an average efficiency of 15 to 40.7 percent, every square meter (1m<sup>2</sup>) of solar photovoltaic cells (PV) would produce (4.5 kilowatthours of solar energy multiplied by 15% =) between 0.68 kilowatthours of electric energy per day.

Solar panels (PV) covering an area of 100m<sup>2</sup>(1 Plot of Land) would produce 100 x .68 = 68 kilowatthours of electricity per day. It is worth noting that 68kwh per day is a lot of electricity for a single family home.

In conclusion, let me say that the improved technology surrounding solar power is very significant. It has brought clean energy within practical use. Given the significant environmental benefits, there is a very strong case for government intervention to accelerate the switch to solar power. Considering Ghana's solar power potential, the reluctance to switch to solar power is delaying our national progress in living standards.



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