

Albania microgrid benefits

As Albania aims for sustainable energy, PV systems are expected to play a key role in reducing emissions, increasing energy independence, and fostering economic growth. Costs and energy savings associated with photovoltaic (PV) panels over 15 years have been discussed by [54].

Any organization seeking to gain control over energy costs, advance sustainability, and increase resiliency can benefit from a microgrid. Additionally, as infrastructure, industry, and buildings continue to become more electrified, microgrids can help generate power for additional loads.

Microgrids serve industries, institutions, communities and other customers in a range of ways. Here we look at eight main microgrid benefits - from keeping the lights in a storm to lowering energy costs to improving community well-being. Eight microgrid benefits. 1. A microgrid improves electric reliability.

Benefits of Microgrids. There are several benefits to using microgrids, including: [1] **Increased Reliability:** Microgrids can provide a more reliable source of energy, as they can continue to operate even if the traditional power grid goes down. This is especially important for critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and emergency ...

A microgrid, regarded as one of the cornerstones of the future smart grid, uses distributed generations and information technology to create a widely distributed automated energy delivery network. This paper presents a review of the microgrid concept, classification and control strategies.

Community energy is key to action on the climate crisis. It can empower people, boost local economies, and reinvigorate communities. Community-led initiatives play an important role in the transition towards a 100% renewable and just energy future. Success stories of community energy projects can be found all over Europe. At REScoop we want to highlight these stories to further accelerate the movement towards a cleaner and democratic system.

This month we travel to Albania to discover Piskova Solar Farming, a small-scale community energy initiative that aims to demonstrate that energy cooperatives can thrive in Albania too.

Albania's energy landscape is at a crossroads. Currently heavily reliant on hydropower and dominated by a single large utility, the country's national strategy aims to diversify and decentralise its energy portfolio while increasing the share of renewable energy sources. Involving citizens, communities, and local authorities is crucial to democratising this transition. Unfortunately, community energy remains a new concept in Albania. However, a group of citizens developed Piskova Solar Farming to inspire fellow citizens and showcase the potential of energy cooperatives.

Piskova Solar Farming comprises a 3kWp photovoltaic (PV) plant that powers the water pump of Piskova, a village of about 2,000 inhabitants in southern Albania. While the installation covers only 10% of the pump's electricity needs, it offers local farmers a discount on the high energy bills they incur for irrigating their land. Furthermore, the successful completion of this project paves the way for easy replication.

The origins of Piskova Solar Farming trace back to a workshop on community energy and the potential of renewable solar energy organised by the environmental organisation Milieukontakt Albania in June 2022. As part of their work within the EUCENA project, an initiative aimed at accelerating the energy transition in Southeast and Central Europe, Milieukontakt Albania was looking for a location to promote the creation of a lighthouse project that serve as a replication model for the future. After reaching out to various local groups and municipalities, they identified Piskova as the ideal setting.

The project advanced through mentoring sessions and a second workshop where participants presented a concrete plan for a solar farm to power Piskova's water pump. Based on their data, the farmers identified an energy cooperative as a solution that could bring significant economic benefits.

However, given the absence of a legal definition of an energy community or energy cooperative in Albania, Milieukontakt presented a memorandum of understanding for the creation of an energy community during the third workshop. The document outlines its functioning and the roles and responsibilities of all actors involved: Milieukontakt Albania; Vjosa Explorer, a local NGO that managed the investment and provided the essential legal entity and structure for the project; the municipality of Piskova, responsible for maintaining the solar panels and the water pump; and 18 farmers who benefit from the installation, with many others also reaping rewards. A committee, with a representative from each group, manages the project.

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