

## Cote d ivoire solar energy for homes

C?te d'Ivoire has taken a significant leap forward in renewable energy with the launch of a new solar power plant capable of lighting up to 35,000 homes. This innovative project, located in Boundiali in the northern part of the country, is a testament to the nation's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and climate change mitigation. The plant has been operational since June 2023, contributing up to 37MW of clean energy to the Ivorian national grid.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by the presence of Ivorian Prime Minister Beugre Mambé and German Parliamentary State Secretary B?rbel Kofler, highlighting the international cooperation underpinning this project. The development was financially supported by KfW Development Bank with a funding package of EUR37 million (around \$40.1m), which included a loan of EUR27m (around \$29.2m) on behalf of the German Federal Government and a grant of EUR10m (around \$10.8m) on behalf of the European Union.

Spanning 38 hectares, the Boundiali solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant boasts nearly 70,000 solar modules that glisten in the West African sun, producing sustainable electricity. Owned and operated by CI-Energies (C?te d'Ivoire Energies), the facility is a beacon of green energy production in the region. Saft, a subsidiary of TotalEnergies, was tasked with delivering a 10MW Energy Storage System (ESS) for the project, ensuring the reliability and efficiency of the power output.

Constructed by Eiffage Energie Syst?me and its subsidiary RMT, the project involved extensive preparatory work, including land clearing, infrastructure development, and the installation of an advanced battery energy storage system (BESS). This 10MWh BESS plays a crucial role in stabilizing the energy generated by the solar panels, allowing for consistent power supply while reducing CO2 emissions by 27,000 tonnes annually.

Eiffage Energie Syst?me's meticulous work also included the installation of high-voltage transformers and underground lines, integrating the Boundiali plant seamlessly into C?te d'Ivoire's national grid. This integration is pivotal in bolstering the country's renewable energy capacity and contributing to the national goal of increasing the share of renewable energies in its electricity supply to 45% by 2030.

The Boundiali solar power plant is not just an infrastructure project; it represents a significant stride towards environmental sustainability, with an expected reduction of 35,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year. It stands as a model for solar energy expansion in C?te d'Ivoire and a vital component of the country's strategy to combat climate change. As C?te d'Ivoire continues to embrace renewable energy, the Boundiali solar power plant is a shining example of what can be achieved through collaboration, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to a sustainable future.

Ikeoluwa Ogungbangbe, with her four-year tenure as a writer, fervently champions early leadership ideals. Her flagship program, "From Seed to Sequoia Initiative," is a testament to her commitment, where she mentors



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secondary school students, helping shape their futures. Ikeoluwa emphasizes the transformative power of human connections. She strongly asserts that genuine, authentic friendships and relationships are the foundational pillars that drive individual and collective success. Guiding young minds, she believes in laying down roots of integrity, passion, and resilience.

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Côte d'Ivoire recently celebrated the launch of a significant renewable energy milestone with the inauguration of a new solar power plant in Boundiali, located in the northern part of the country. This development is poised to supply up to 37MW of power, enough to sustain electricity to approximately 35,000 homes, marking a pivotal advancement in the nation's energy sector. The official unveiling of the plant was presided over by Ivorian Prime Minister Beugre Mambé and German Parliamentary State Secretary Bärbel Kofler, reflecting a collaborative international effort.

The project, which commenced power production in June 2023, received substantial financial backing from KfW Development Bank. The bank contributed EUR37 million to the endeavor, comprising a EUR27 million loan from the German Federal Government and a EUR10 million grant from the European Union. This investment underscores the commitment of both local and international stakeholders to fostering sustainable energy solutions in West Africa.

Constructed by Eiffage Energie Systême and its subsidiary RMT, the Boundiali solar photovoltaic (PV) plant spans over 38 hectares of land. Prior to construction, extensive preparation was necessary, including clearing undergrowth, establishing operational infrastructures, and laying down an asphalt access road. The plant boasts nearly 70,000 solar modules and incorporates a 10MW Energy Storage System (ESS) provided by Saft, a subsidiary of TotalEnergies. This ESS is designed to stabilize the energy output from the solar panels, ensuring the plant's reliable production capacity of 64 GWh/year while also reducing CO2 emissions by 27,000 tonnes annually.

With its 10MWh battery energy storage system, the Boundiali plant represents a significant step towards smoothing the intermittency of solar power, thereby bolstering the reliability and efficiency of renewable energy within the national grid. Eiffage Energie Systême's installation of two high-capacity transformers and the extension of the existing source substation further facilitates the seamless integration of solar-generated electricity into Côte d'Ivoire's energy mix.

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