



# United arab emirates first solar

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The United Arab Emirates has launched the Al Dhafra solar farm - now the world's largest single-site solar farm - ahead of COP28.

The 2-gigawatt (GW) solar farm is 22 miles (35 km) from Abu Dhabi and features almost 4 million bifacial solar panels. It will power nearly 200,000 homes and eliminate over 2.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

It created 4,500 jobs during the peak of the construction phase, and the solar panels were installed at an average rate of 10 megawatts (MW) a day during construction.

Al Dhafra was jointly developed by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar), Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA), French power company EDF Renewables, and Chinese solar developer JinkoPower.

TAQA owns 40% of the project, and Masdar, EDF Renewables, and Jinko Power each own 20%. The solar farm will supply power to Emirates Water and Electricity Company (EWEC) following a 2020 power purchase agreement.

The UAE is hosting COP28 in Dubai, which kicks off on November 30, so, understandably, its rulers would time the launch of the world's largest solar farm just ahead of that event - it's simply good PR.

UAE is rightly being criticized for putting the CEO of its state oil company, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company - the world's 12th-biggest oil company by production - in charge of COP28. It's also being criticized for hosting COP28 yet having an all-of-the-above approach to energy.

"It says it will become carbon neutral by 2050, but how it will do that on 50% fossil fuels is anyone's guess."

... I assume it's because they will only track Scope 1 emissions in their net-zero claim. These Scope 1 emissions don't include the carbon-gasses released when the fuel source is actually burned. Those are considered Scope 3 emissions which make up about 90% of all carbon-based energy emissions.

Read more: In a first, US solar will generate more electricity than hydropower in 2024

If you're considering going solar, it's always a good idea to get quotes from a few installers. To make sure you find a trusted, reliable solar installer near you that offers competitive pricing, check out EnergySage, a



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free service that makes it easy for you to go solar. It has hundreds of pre-vetted solar installers competing for your business, ensuring you get high-quality solutions and save 20-30% compared to going it alone. Plus, it's free to use, and you won't get sales calls until you select an installer and share your phone number with them.

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