

Can Tokelau support itself with solar energy?

Tokelau, an island nation in the South Pacific, is now completely able to support itself with solar energy. Elly Earls met Joseph Mayhew of the New Zealand Aid Programme to find out how this tiny collection of atolls has become almost 100% self-sufficient in less than 12 months.

How much electricity does a solar system provide in Tokelau?

Each system alone is among the largest off-grid solar power systems in the world, and together they are capable of providing 150% of current electricity demand in Tokelau, a much higher amount than the 90% that was originally planned for.

Why did Tokelau switch to solar?

Yet despite the challenges involved in installing comprehensive solar systems in such a remote location, switching to solar was absolutely crucial for the tiny collection of islands. 'Tokelau's atolls are low-lying and especially susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change,' Mayhew stressed.

Could Tokelau be the world's first renewable nation?

Solar power plants and coconut biofuel-powered generators switched on in Tokelau has made the islands the world's first truly renewable nation.' Imagine a place where the only energy to be found is clean, reliable solar power. Solar Array's seen on the three tiny islands of Tokelau to completely produce solar power energy.

How many people live in Tokelau?

Tokelau is made up of three small atolls, Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu, has an area of around 10km²; and is populated by 1,411 New Zealand citizens, all of whom now have their energy needs met by solar electricity systems. 'Each system alone is among the largest off-grid solar power systems in the world.'

Why is electricity so expensive in Tokelau?

Before the PowerSmart systems were installed on the nation's three atolls, Tokelau was highly dependent on imported fossil fuels to meet its energy needs and therefore vulnerable to international price fluctuations and increasing fuel costs, making electricity extremely expensive for both households and businesses.

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Target: 100% renewable energy; Status: Achieved; RES: 1MW off-grid solar energy system across three main atolls of Tokelau. The project includes : 4032 solar modules, 196 string inverters, 112 DC charge ...

PCRR delegates also heard how Tokelau, a small New Zealand territory mid-way between Hawaii and New Zealand, and just over 300 miles north of Samoa, has achieved 94% energy supply from renewable sources.

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