

Indonesia inaugurates Southeast Asia's largest floating solar farm

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An aerial view of a new 192 MWp floating solar farm, built in West Java by Indonesia and UAE renewable energy firm Masdar and inaugurated by President Joko Widodo.

Indonesia inaugurated a \$100 million floating solar farm on Thursday, the largest in Southeast Asia, as it seeks more opportunities to transition

to green, renewable energy.

The Cirata floating solar farm, which is expected to generate enough electricity to [power](#) 50,000 households, is built on a 200-hectare (500-acre) reservoir in West Java, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) from the capital, Jakarta.

"Today is a historical day, because our big dream to build a [renewable energy](#) plant on a big scale is finally achieved," President Joko Widodo said in a speech to mark the occasion.

"We managed to build the largest floating solar farm in Southeast Asia, and the third biggest in the world," he said.

The project, a collaboration between Indonesia's national electricity company Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN) and the Abu Dhabi-based renewable energy company Masdar, took three years to complete and cost roughly \$100 million.

Situated in a lush, green area surrounded by rice fields, the [solar farm](#), funded by Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Societe Generale and Standard Chartered, consists of 340,000 panels.

At 192 megawatt peak (MWp), the [farm](#) currently generates enough power to supply electricity for the Cirata area.

Widodo said the project would be expanded to 500 MWp, while PLN said it could eventually generate as much as 1,000 MWp.

The Indonesian government has said it will attempt to reach net-zero emissions by 2060.



An aerial picture of a new floating solar power plant built in West Java by Indonesia and UAE renewable energy firm Masdar and inaugurated by President Joko Widodo.

It is also attempting to reach net-zero power sector emissions by 2050 in return for financing for its \$20 billion Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) plan.

Under the plan, Jakarta has pledged to cut its power sector carbon emissions to a peak of 250 million metric tons by 2030, down from a previous cap of 290 million.

"We hope there will be more renewable energy built in our country such as solar, hydropower, geothermal and wind," Widodo said.

But solar and [wind power](#) each account for less than one percent of Indonesia's power mix, with Southeast Asia's largest economy still relying heavily on fossil fuels to generate electricity.

Indonesia set a target to expand renewable energy to 23 percent of its energy mix by 2025, although Widodo acknowledged it might not be able to reach that target because of delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The country has pledged to stop building new coal-fired power plants but it has gone ahead with the construction of those that were already planned despite an outcry from activists.

Indonesia is also trying to position itself as a key player in the electric vehicle market as the world's largest producer of nickel—a crucial component of lithium-ion batteries—but some industrial parks that host energy-guzzling nickel smelters are powered by coal.

Environmentalists welcomed the project but urged local involvement in the construction and management of the projects.

"Building floating solar farms by making use of vacant land or reservoirs should be the main generator of [energy](#) transition in Indonesia," Greenpeace Indonesia campaigner Didit Haryo Wicaksono told AFP.

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