

Should investors invest in sustainable solar projects in the Maldives?

In 2014, the first 1.5 MW solar project under ASPIRE only had four investors bids, and resulted in a high power purchase price (PPA) of 21 US cents per unit of electricity, indicating a lack of interest from investors in investing in sustainable projects in the Maldives.

How much does a solar project cost in Maldives?

In 2022, 63 investor expressed interest in the third 11 MW solar project in the remote islands of Maldives, and a record low price of 9.8 US cents was received. This is one of the lowest tariffs for any small island developing state (SIDS).

What is Premier Solar Group?

The Premier Solar Group is a direct to consumer business offering distributed solar PV solutions to the Commercial and Industrial (C&I), Institutional, Agricultural, Telecom, Healthcare and Educational sectors in East Africa, Middle East and South Asia. Currently operating in Kenya, Uganda, Dubai, Sri Lanka and India.

What are the challenges facing solar projects in Maldives?

Challenges facing such projects include integrating solar with existing power sources on the grid, off-taker risk, weak procurement, and planning capacity. The objective of the ASPIRE project is to increase photovoltaic (PV) generation in Maldives through private-sector investment. Approved in 2020, the ARISE Project scaled up this process.

How will aspire solar projects benefit Maldives?

In general, the projects will benefit the people of Maldives and the government by lowering electricity prices and providing quasi-budgetary support. 2014 - The first 1.5 megawatt (MW) solar project under ASPIRE had four investors' bids, resulting in a high PPA of 21 US cents per unit of electricity.

When will the Aspire project start in the Maldives?

The inauguration of the 5 MW solar project on December 7, 2022 under the ASPIRE project has been a game changer in the energy transition journey of the Maldives.

The Magey Solar program aims to streamline access to solar energy for residents while also reducing public expenditure on electricity. Eligible participants must be customers of Fenaka with an active electricity subscription.

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installed in 14 islands of the Maldives. Environment Ministry informed that they have opened pre-qualification applications for investors to install solar panels in 14 islands including 10 islands from Laamu Atoll.

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The project, approved by the Board of Investments under the SEZ Act, will see the development of a floating solar power plant capable of generating 150 megawatts of energy. The Investment Board, operating under the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, is chaired by Minister Mohamed Saeed.

World Bank-financed projects ASPIRE and ARISE support Maldives" energy transition by installing more than 53.5 megawatts of solar capacity and 50-megawatt hours of battery storage. This will reduce Maldives" annual import bill by about \$30 million, with a project lifetime saving of \$756 million over 25 years.

The leading solar energy company invested in the Maldives is Swimsol, having implemented not only land panels, but floating solar systems branded SolarSea(R) across the country after years of trial and testing. Swimsol has successfully implemented more than 13 projects for both land and floating solar systems since 2014 till 2021.

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