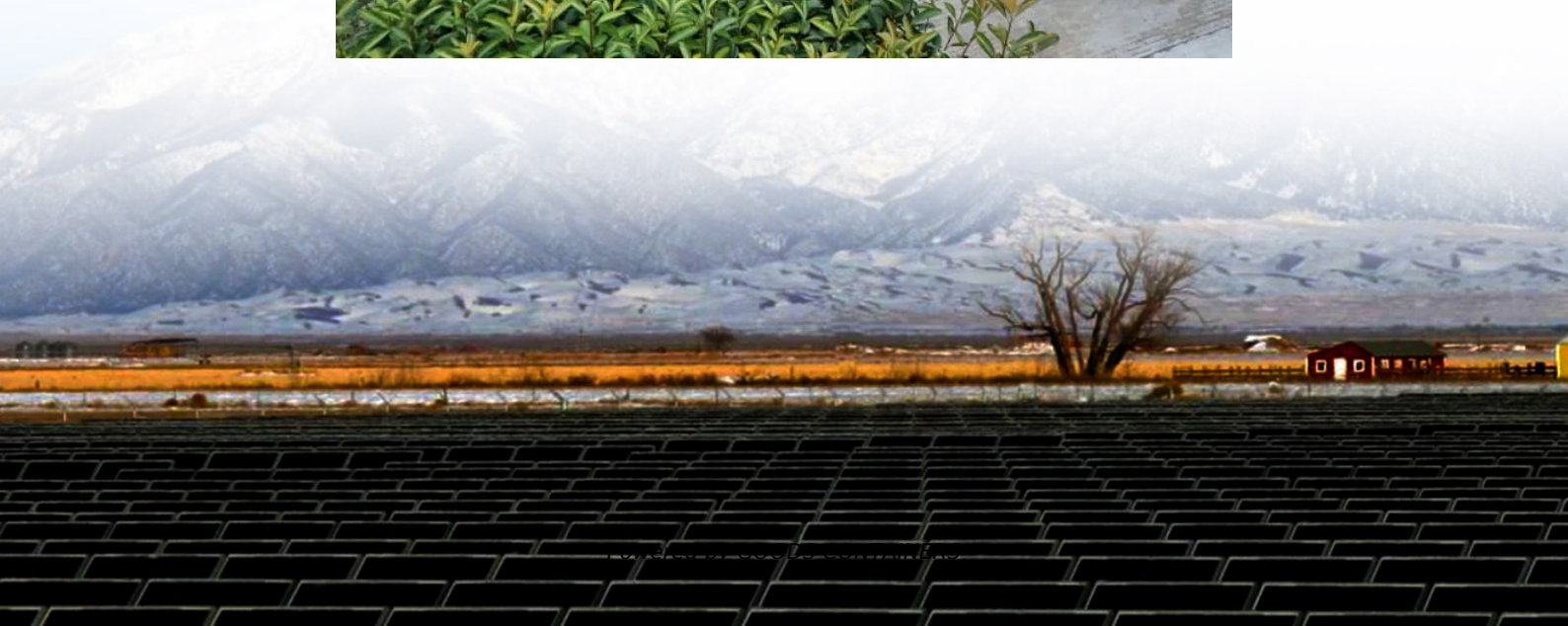


North Korean household solar energy storage





Overview

Does North Korea still use solar power?

In this installment of our series on North Korea's energy sector, we move away from official and commercial uses of solar and seek to understand the growing use of solar power for personal energy consumption in a country where its people still suffer from an unreliable power supply nationwide.

Can solar power solve North Korea's energy problems?

Jeong-hyeon, a North Korean escapee, told the Financial Times that many residents in Hamhung, the second-most populous city, "relied on a solar panel, a battery and a power generator to light their houses and power their television". But solar power is still only a partial solution to the country's energy woes.

How many solar panels are there in North Korea?

The Korea Energy Economics Institute in Seoul estimates that 2.88mn solar panels, mostly small units used to power electronic devices and LED lamps, are now in use across North Korea, accounting for an estimated 7 per cent of household power demand.

Are solar panels a real thing in North Korea?

Larger solar installations have also sprung up at factories and government buildings over the past decade. Jeong-hyeon, a North Korean escapee, told the Financial Times that many residents in Hamhung, the second-most populous city, "relied on a solar panel, a battery and a power generator to light their houses and power their television".



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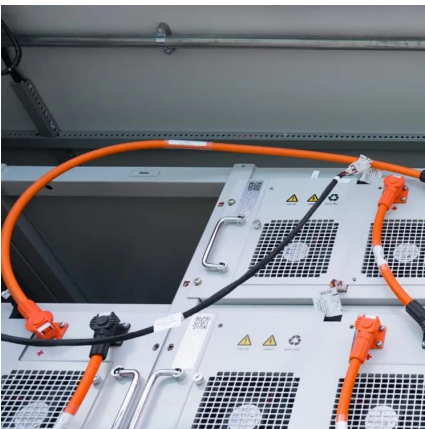
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