

Kongres Container

New Zealand solar centralized energy storage project



Overview

New Zealand's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has issued resource consents for a utility-scale project combining a 179-MW solar park with a co-located battery energy storage system (BESS) on the North Island. What is the Darfield solar & energy storage project?

The Darfield Solar & Energy Storage Project is a landmark 117 MW solar development in Canterbury, New Zealand, featuring optional battery storage of up to 106 MW / 200–400 MWh. Designed for a 40-year lifespan, it will generate 210 GWh annually—enough to power 23,000 homes—while reducing carbon emissions by 12,000 tonnes.

Will a 100-megawatt solar farm improve New Zealand's national grid?

Located at Ruakākā in the country's North Island, the 100-megawatt (MW) BESS will improve the stability of the national grid, as intermittent renewable power generation increases in New Zealand. The BESS is the first stage of a project that will include the construction of a co-located 130 MW solar farm by Meridian Energy.

Which energy company is building New Zealand's first grid-connected battery energy storage system?

Meridian Energy is building New Zealand's first large-scale grid-connected battery energy storage system (BESS) at Ruakākā on North Island. Paris, January 10, 2023 – Saft, a subsidiary of TotalEnergies, has been awarded a major contract by Meridian Energy to construct New Zealand's first large-scale grid-connected BESS.

What is New Zealand's energy future?

Designed for a 40-year lifespan, it will generate 210 GWh annually—enough to power 23,000 homes—while reducing carbon emissions by 12,000 tonnes. Strategically located next to Fonterra's Kimberley Factory, it offers dual energy offtake pathways and strong grid connectivity, making it a key contributor to New Zealand's clean energy future.

Are solar farms a solution to New Zealand's reliance on fossil fuels?

Solar farms and batteries, alongside hydro stations and wind farms, are part of the solution to reduce New Zealand's reliance on fossil fuels and support our transition to a resilient net zero economy.

What does NZCE do?

As a key player in New Zealand's energy transition, NZCE develops, builds, and operates large-scale renewable energy projects to deliver clean, reliable, and sustainable power. "We're committed to a greener future—and innovation is at the core of how we get there" says the COO.

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