
Power usage of solar container communication stations in Papua New Guinea

Why is electricity important in Papua New Guinea?

Electricity access is a key driver of socioeconomic development of a nation, and a critical catalyst to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Unfortunately Papua New Guinea (PNG) faces an acute electrification challenge with the majority of the population, especially in rural communities living without basic access to electricity.

How much electricity does PNG have?

Despite the country's abundant energy resources, PNG is reported to have an electricity access of around 10-15% based on the binary access-metric system¹. Including solar PV pico-lights, the rate of access increases to around 55%, which is still lower than the global average of 89% but demonstrates the already significant impact of PV technology.

How many people in PNG have electricity access?

Going by the binary electricity access measure, about 10-15% of the population of PNG has electricity access, with almost all concentrated in urban areas.

Could decentralised solar help expand energy access in PNG?

The challenge is extending this model to the broader population, especially in rural communities with limited cash income and low technical capacity. Decentralised solar could play a major role in expanding energy access across PNG, particularly in remote areas where grid extension is unlikely.

Abstract Electricity access is a key driver of socio-economic development of a nation, and a critical catalyst to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. ...

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