ContainerPower Energy Solutions

# Cuba holds new energy storage industry

## Overview

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Yet Cuba's power outages increased by 23% in 2023 despite adding 450MW solar capacity. What's really going wrong?

Cuba currently operates 186 renewable parks generating 25% of its electricity. But here's the kicker – less than 15% have proper energy storage systems. "We're basically throwing away.

On Saturday, Cuba initiated the installation of solar energy storage batteries at four electrical substations, marking a significant step in addressing its energy challenges. These Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), also referred to as "concentrator units," are being placed at Cueto 220, Bayamo.

The Cuban government has unveiled a bold initiative to introduce one thousand megawatts (MW) of solar energy into the National Electric System (SEN) by 2025. This effort, which involves establishing approximately fifty photovoltaic parks across the nation, aims to address Cuba’s persistent energy.

That's exactly what happened in October 2024 when Cuba's Matanzas thermal power plant tripped offline, triggering the worst blackout in 30 years [1]. With 1,740 MW of electricity shortage during peak hours [2], this crisis revealed Cuba's energy Achilles' heel - an aging fleet of oil-dependent.

Residents of Cuba are expected to experience a new wave of inflation in 2024 following the government’s announcement of a new austerity plan that will include price and tax increases and cuts in subsidies. In the short term, the investment project consists of installing 1,000 MW of solar.

The plan aims for one thousand megawatts of solar energy by 2025, but without installed batteries, which prevents meeting nighttime demand and limits its effectiveness against persistent blackouts. The Cuban government announced that it plans to incorporate one thousand megawatts (MW) of solar.

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