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Vatican develops energy storage project



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Overview

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The Holy See and the Italian Republic have signed an agreement to build an agrivoltaic plant in the Vatican's Santa Maria di Galeria area just outside of Rome, aiming to supply Vatican City State with renewable energy. By Vatican News Upholding and taking action on a shared commitment to promote.

On July 31, at the historic Palazzo Borromeo, the Holy See and the Italian Republic signed a landmark agreement to build an agrivoltaic system in Santa Maria di Galeria. Photo: Vatican Media According to the Vatican's press office, the installation will apply the most advanced solutions currently.

ROME (AP) — Italy agreed Thursday to a Vatican plan to turn a 430-hectare (1,000-acre) field north of Rome, once the source of controversy between the two, into a vast solar farm that the Holy See hopes will generate enough electricity to meet its needs and turn Vatican City into the world's first.

A step forward has been taken toward the construction of an agrivoltaic plant in a vast area of land belonging to the Holy See on the outskirts of Rome, known as Santa Maria di Galeria. On Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 12:00 noon, an agreement between the Holy See and the Italian Republic was signed.

The Holy See has pledged to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from 2011 levels by 2030 and to reach net-zero emissions by 2050—the latter in line with broader European ambition. While not yet fully powered by renewables, the Vatican has steadily expanded its solar infrastructure since 2008:.

The installation of solar panels on Vatican-owned land to the north of the capital follows the photovoltaic glazing of the Cortile delle Corazze and the Vignaccia warehouse of the Vatican Museums (350 kilowatts peak for a total production of 500 megawatt hours) and the 5,000 square metre roof of.

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