

Mauritania, a country particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, is determined to limit its greenhouse gas emissions. Symbolizing this commitment, an increasing number of young people have chosen to become agents of change by setting up renewable energy businesses.

Renewable Energy Opportunities for Mauritania - a new IEA report and the first focusing exclusively on Mauritania - explores the potential benefits for Mauritania of developing its renewable energy options. Deploying these resources at scale to generate low-cost renewable electricity and hydrogen through electrolysis could attract large ...

Mauritania has high-quality wind and solar resources whose large-scale development could have catalytic effects in supporting the country to deliver universal electricity access to its citizens and achieve its vision for sustainable economic development.

This new IEA report - the first focusing on Mauritania - explores the potential benefits to Mauritania of developing its renewable energy options and includes an analysis of the water requirements of hydrogen and the potential for expanding potable water availability through seawater desalination.

Renewable energy to support production in Mauritania. The new report, which was launched during an event in Nouakchott, outlines possible pathways for Mauritania to develop its renewable energy resources at scale and was carried out in collaboration with the Mauritanian Ministry of Petroleum, Mines and Energy.

In late 2022, Mauritania embarked on a transformative journey for its energy landscape by inaugurating a new electricity code, echoing its robust commitment to decarbonization. This reform stands poised to unleash a surplus of benefits, especially for Mauritania's extractive sectors and the broader local economy.

A switch to renewable energy in the sector could lower costs, reduce emissions, increase efficiency and improve energy security in the country. There is also potential to further electrify energy uses in mining. The government has announced various export-oriented projects to produce renewable hydrogen, ammonia and/or hydrogen-reduced iron.

The report outlines three possible pathways for Mauritania to export renewable hydrogen: shipping hydrogen to global markets in the form of ammonia; coupling existing iron ore mining with renewable hydrogen to produce higher-value direct reduced iron for export; and transporting hydrogen to Europe through a pipeline connecting Mauritania to Spain.

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Mauritania aims to become a major player in the hydrogen industry by 2040. In May 2021, Mauritania signed a memorandum of understanding with a renewable energy developer, CWP Global, for the development of a USD 40bn project with the aim to produce 30 gigawatts of wind and solar energy to power electrolyzers for the production of green hydrogen.⁸

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