

The Vatican s power storage method





Overview

Why does the Vatican have a solar system?

The Vatican's solar shift is a culmination of a political and spiritual mission years in the making. In 2024, the late Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter ordering the construction of an agrivoltaic solar plant to supply the Vatican with energy from Santa Maria di Galeria. On the same site, the new solar infrastructure now stands.

What is the Vatican doing to reduce waste?

The project will also include agricultural activity, creating an "agrivoltaic" site that combines solar energy production with farming. In terms of waste, the Vatican is working to increase its recycling rate from 65% to 75%, surpassing the EU average of around 49% (Eurostat, 2022).

Will the Vatican build a solar plant in 2024?

In 2024, the Vatican announced a new solar plant to be built on Church-owned land outside Rome, positioning the city-state to become the eighth country in the world to run entirely on renewable electricity. The project will also include agricultural activity, creating an "agrivoltaic" site that combines solar energy production with farming.

Does the Vatican have a low-energy lighting system?

The Vatican has introduced low-energy lighting systems; over 100,000 LED lights have replaced older fixtures, cutting energy consumption by up to 90% while protecting delicate frescoes from heat exposure. Villa Barberini, Pontifical Gardens at Castel Gandolfo: Photo by Sonse - Villa Barberini Pontifical Gardens, Castel Gandolfo, CC BY 2.0.

Is the Vatican going green?

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while protecting delicate frescoes from heat exposure. The Vatican is going green with solar panels, EVs, and net-zero goals—blending faith and climate action in a push for sustainability.

How many electric cars are in the Vatican's fleet?

Meanwhile, the hum of electric engines is steadily replacing the roar of combustion: in early 2024, Volkswagen delivered nearly 40 electric vehicles to the Vatican fleet, with 14 more added in April 2025—including units for the Gendarmerie and fire department.



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