

First 21-megawatt solar park connected to the grid



A total of 55 parks of the same capacity are to be built this year (source: [Cubadebate](#)/KI-scaled)

Cuba's first large solar park has been connected to the grid as part of the ongoing [program to combat the energy](#) crisis. As the state news portal *Cubadebate* [reports](#), the park, nicknamed “Nursing School” due to its location nearby the institution in Havana's Cotorro district, was officially opened on Friday morning in the presence of President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

The head of state was accompanied by Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdés, Minister of Energy and Mining Vicente de la O. Levy, Chinese Ambassador Hua Xin and representatives of the main Havana authorities. China is cooperating with Cuba on the implementation of the solar program and, in addition to the panels, is also providing technicians to help with the construction of the parks.

The park is expected to generate 37 gigawatt-hours of electricity each year, saving the country 8,140 tons of fuel. According to Ricardo Mangana, director of the Renewable Energy Company (Emfre), the park began test operations on Monday and reached a maximum output of 21.7 megawatts the day before. It is operated by a team of 30 people working in four shifts. The park is to be guarded constantly at night, because [theft of power generation equipment](#) has become a problem that the authorities [want to crack down on](#).

The new solar park, with a planned capacity of 21.8 megawatts, is the first of a total of 55 parks of the same design that are to be built in the course of this year. With a total output of 1,200 megawatts, they are expected to mark the end of the energy crisis. According to government plans, a total of 92 solar parks with a capacity of 2,012 megawatts and 200 megawatts of battery storage capacity will be built by 2028. In addition, the program aims to restore decentralized generation with smaller diesel power plants and to rehabilitate the power grid in order to reduce losses.

Cuba has been suffering from a massive energy crisis for several years, resulting in daily power outages that last for hours and paralyze the economy and society. A lack of foreign currency due to the collapse in tourism and tighter US sanctions have left the country without the funds needed to maintain and operate the heavy oil power plants, which mostly date from the Soviet era. In [October](#) and [December](#) of last year, two nationwide blackouts occurred due to the power deficit in the grid. ([Cubaheute](#))