
China and Africa are looking for manufacturers of solar panels

Does Africa Import solar panels from China?

This report presents Ember's analysis of Africa's imports of solar panels from China. The Chinese solar panel export data gives valuable insights because it includes imports up to June 2025, at a monthly granularity, and for every country in the world. The data can be found in Ember's China Solar Export Explorer.

Where do Africa's solar panels come from?

The vast majority of Africa's solar panels come from Chinese imports. That is because China produced 80% of the world's solar panels in 2024, and is by far the biggest exporter. Africa depends heavily on imports because domestic solar panel manufacturing is still limited.

Could China's solar panels help meet Africa's energy needs?

From Algeria on the Mediterranean coast to landlocked Zambia in the south, countries across Africa have been importing significantly more solar panels from China this year than in the past, which analysts say could be the start of a massive effort to help meet the continent's power demands with renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.

Are solar panels taking off in Africa?

The first evidence of a take-off in solar in Africa is now here: The last 12 months saw a big rise in Africa's solar panel imports. Imports from China rose 60% in the last 12 months to 15,032 MW. Over the last two years, the imports of solar panels outside of South Africa have nearly tripled from 3,734 MW to 11,248 MW.

Africa is witnessing a historic surge in solar energy adoption, importing a record 15,032 megawatts (MW) of solar panels from China in the 12 months leading up to June 2025, ...

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Africa's solar imports soared 60% to 15 GW in 2025, fueled by China, reshaping power and cutting diesel reliance.

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Energy-starved countries on the continent have reluctantly turned to coal and gas for decades. Cheap Chinese solar panels are now finally changing the calculus.

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