

Press release

RWE puts two solar battery plants at Garzweiler opencast mine into operation

- **More than 58,000 solar modules and two battery storage systems supply green electricity for more than 7,250 German households**
- **Higher yield: efficient modules absorb sunlight from both sides**
- **Four solar battery facilities in opencast mines already under construction or in operation**

Cologne/Essen, 1 September 2023

Can solar energy be used even when the sun doesn't shine? Two photovoltaic plants complete with battery storage facilities now make this a reality at the Garzweiler opencast mine. On a site the size of about 38 football fields, RWE has installed more than 58,000 photovoltaic modules that will generate solar electricity for over 7,250 German households every year. At this location RWE uses "bifacial" modules, in other words, modules that are photosensitive on both sides. The advantage of these is that, in addition to sunlight hitting the panels directly, they can also utilise light reflected by the ground to the rear side of the modules. This makes these modules extremely efficient.

Sascha Solbach, Mayor of the City of Bedburg: "For a clean and reliable electricity supply, we not only need more renewables, we also need battery solutions such as those implemented by RWE at the Garzweiler opencast mine, enabling our citizens to use solar power even after sunset."

Katja Wünschel, CEO RWE Renewables Europe & Australia: "Solar power from opencast mines is a model for success. Using them in combination with battery systems is ideal. This is an integrated and highly successful plant concept that we are putting into practice at several locations simultaneously. In a short timeframe we have constructed three large-scale solar battery plants on opencast mine sites, and one more is under construction. That represents a further step towards our goal of achieving renewables projects with a capacity of 500 megawatts in the Rhenish lignite mining area by 2030."

The [Garzweiler project](#) has a peak capacity of 19.4 megawatts (MWp) and 6.5 MW of storage capacity. It was set up directly below the [Königshovener Höhe Wind Farm](#), which is operated by the German city of Bedburg and RWE. The [Jackerath project](#) (12.1 MWp and 4.1 MW battery storage) is located on the western edge of the opencast mine. The battery storage systems are designed for a two-hour charging and supply cycle.

RWE

Lars Kulik, CTO Lignite at RWE Power: “The two locations have a combined area of approximately 38 football fields. This shows it is not only our large-scale recultivation areas that offer plenty of space for renewables but also opencast mine areas that are still in operation. We plan to use these to ensure the region continues to be an energy producer into the future.”

At the Inden opencast mine, the “[RWE indeland Solar Farm](#)” is a similar facility that has been generating solar electricity since 2022 from more than 26,500 solar modules in combination with a battery storage system. The electricity generated there is enough to supply about 4,000 German households. RWE is also constructing the “[RWE Neuland Solar Farm](#)” photovoltaic and battery facility at the Hambach opencast mine, and a further solar plant is being planned there.

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You can find **additional information on RWE’s solar projects** [here](#).

Photovoltaic storage plants at the Garzweiler opencast mine (operational)

Garzweiler photovoltaic plant	19.4 MWp	12 MWac
Garzweiler battery storage system	6.5 MW	13 MWh
Jackerath photovoltaic plant	12.1 MWp	8 MWac
Jackerath battery storage system	4.1 MW	8.1 MWh

“RWE indeland Solar Farm” at the Inden opencast mine (operational)

Photovoltaic plant	14.4 MWp	8 MWac
Battery storage system	4.8 MW	9.6 MWh

Photovoltaic plants at the Hambach opencast mine (under construction/planned)

Photovoltaic plant “RWE Neuland Solar Farm” (under construction)	12.2 MWp	8.4 MWac
Battery storage system “RWE Neuland Solar Farm” (under construction)	4.1 MW	8.1 MWh
Photovoltaic plant “RWE Neuland 1 Solar Farm” (in planning)	20 MWp	17.6 MWac

RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing more than €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydropower, hydrogen, batteries, biomass, and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America, and the Asia-Pacific region. The company wants to phase out coal by 2030. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company’s purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.



Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations, and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.

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