

Press release

RWE builds further solar park and new battery storage facility at Hambach opencast mine

- From end of 2026, 25,300 modules will generate enough electricity to supply 5,000 homes
- Construction of the battery storage facility, which will have a capacity of 80 megawatt-hours, is set to begin in summer; storage facility will contribute to the grid stability
- RWE already operates three solar plants and one battery storage facility at Hambach opencast mine in collaboration with inter-municipal company NEULAND HAMBACH

Essen, 19 May 2026

RWE has begun construction on a large utility-scale solar plant in the Rhein-Erft district. The “Manheimer Bucht” solar park is being built within the Hambach opencast mine, in the municipality of Kolpingstadt Kerpen. A total of 25,300 solar modules are being installed in an area the size of around 20 football pitches. The first parts of the substructure and some modules have already been installed. Upon completion at the end of this year, the solar farm will have a capacity of 16.5 megawatts peak (14.8 MWac) and will produce enough climate-friendly electricity to supply the equivalent of around 5,000 households annually.

“Manheimer Bucht” will form the southern end of the future lake at Hambach opencast mine. It will take several decades for the water to reach the area. RWE is using this time to expand renewable energies in suitable, approved areas.

The solar farm will be supplemented by a co-located battery storage facility, construction of which is scheduled to begin this summer. Designed to have a capacity of 80 megawatt-hours, the storage-facility is planned to be commissioned end of 2026 to contribute to grid stability.

Sopna Sury, CEO RWE Renewables Europe & Australia: “With this project, we are continuing to drive the energy transition forward and systematically expanding our solar portfolio. We already operate nine large solar parks in the Rhenish region. By adding battery storage systems, we can make the generated electricity available when it is needed. Involving local residents and communities is particularly important to us. That is why we are working closely with NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH on our renewable energy projects at the Hambach opencast mine.”

Lars Kulik, RWE Power board member responsible for the lignite division: “Our opencast mines are turning into lakes. To ensure that the region remains an energy hub, we are using the future lake areas to expand renewable energy in the meantime. In this way, we are creating opportunities for our team and the region.”



Municipalities surrounding the Hambach opencast mine collaborate with RWE to invest in the energy transition

One battery storage facility and three solar farms with a total capacity of 61 megawatts peak are already in operation at Hambach opencast mine. RWE operates these plants in collaboration with NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH, which represents the surrounding municipalities of Elsdorf, Jülich, Kerpen, Merzenich, Niederzier and Titz. As part of this cooperation, the municipalities also have the option to participate in the Manheimer Bucht project.

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RWE

RWE is leading the way to a modern energy world. With its investment and growth strategy, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in over 20 countries worldwide. RWE is one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. RWE is investing billions of euros in expanding its generation portfolio, in particular in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy and batteries. This is perfectly complemented by its global energy trading business. Thanks to its integrated portfolio of renewables, battery storage and flexible generation, as well as its broad project pipeline of possible new builds, RWE is well positioned to address the growing global demand for electricity, particularly driven by further electrification and artificial intelligence. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose – Our energy for a sustainable life.

Forward-looking statements

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