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Interview with Dino Malajika



Interview with South African Technician Dino Malajika about his remarkable background.

Interviewer: Hi Dino, what do you currently do with Sunsynk South Africa?

Dino Malajika: My name is Dino Malajika, and I am working out of the Sunsynk Office in Johannesburg as a Support Technician. I guide both installers and customers on the correct workings of the Sunsynk Inverter to ensure the system is operating correctly. I have been doing this for the past two and a half years.

Interviewer: What was your early life like?

Dino Malajika: I started off at a private Catholic school called the Dominican Convent School in Johannesburg. At some point, my parents could not afford the school fees, and after an assessment by the school board, I received sponsorship to carry on my studies. This was a relief to all, as our neighbourhood had a lot of crime, and being able to board five days a week kept me focused on my studies.

I have five other brothers, and they had taken up boxing. They were already doing well when I joined their training, and later I excelled and became the Amateur Provincial Champion twice, with 40 fights and five losses under my belt. Our success in the boxing world drew a lot of press attention, and our family name appeared frequently in the sports media.

After leaving school, I started to help out at the local

church and set up a car wash business that would fund the church's transport. I employed three others, and we operated a mobile car washing business where we visited companies and offices around Johannesburg, as well as a few homes of clients. This was going well and lasted for three years until COVID came along and put everyone into recession. When the lock down lifted, I started out again to re-create my business. I carried on washing cars, but to improve my sales pitch, I turned up at the various commercial premises requiring our services wearing a suit and then changed into my car-washing gear while the cars were cleaned. This certainly created a good impression, and I was soon getting more customers. As I became known, one of my clients who worked for Invest Solar asked me for help in distributing flyers to promote solar power. So we would hand out flyers during the peak traffic hours in the morning and afternoon and wash cars during the quiet periods.

Subsequently, I started working for Invest Solar full-time. I helped with assembling the 'Trolley', which is a mobile UPS unit rated at one kilowatt and three kilowatts, and this involved fixing the

wheels, mounting the connection points and wiring the battery circuit. I also carried out site visits and began learning the connectivity between panels, inverters and battery storage. This settled down my life, and I was able to return to boxing. I won two championships and then lost a provincial semi-final. In the same year as I was competing in the boxing championship, I was shot by an unknown assailant from behind. I was lucky; the bullet missed my spine and vital organs. I spent two months in hospital and then a further fourteen months to get my strength back. I did not let this stop me, and once doctors had given me the green light, I got back into boxing. This worked well, and I returned to boxing at the amateur level. I immediately won a fight, lost another, and then I was selected to represent my district on 10-11 May and 17-18 May this year.

Back when I left the hospital, I was looking for something else to do. I needed to recover from my injury and felt there was no future in what I had been doing. At this point, I was contacted by an old friend and offered a role at Sunsynk. I was allowed to work in administration while learning the ins-and-outs of the Sunsynk inverter. This was really a change for me, and the staff and management were very considerate of my state, and I was kept on light work until I got my strength back.

While understudying the established engineers at Sunsynk, I became very enthusiastic about this new business and could see great potential in expanding the solar business. I took on more of a support role,

as I had learnt during my car-washing days how to handle customers and their questions on the inverter. I picked up more technical skills and learnt how to repair and troubleshoot inverters, as well as obtaining a good understanding of series and parallel systems. Once I was fit, I was able to carry out site visits and fulfil my job charter as a Sunsynk technician while answering customer queries.

Interviewer: What do you do in your spare time?

Dino Malajika: In my spare time, I like to hang out with my brothers; we are very close. We'll have a few drinks, play pool and, without a doubt, discuss boxing. My family life is great; I have a two-year-old daughter who brings me much joy. I love taking her on trips and watching her grow.

Interviewer: How do you see your career developing?

I like to study to improve my business knowledge and gain more experience in the electrical field. Of course, my brothers inspire me. Ricardo is the current world champion in his class (Super-Fly), and Charlton also competes at the professional level in the bantamweight class. Watching them drives my passion for the sport. Therefore, I'm still massively enthusiastic about my boxing and hope to achieve further titles within the sport. In respect of life in general, well, I'm passionate about empowering people to improve themselves and like to draw on my own experience of life to drive others to do better, both financially and in character.

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The Imminent

UK Election on July 4th

Understanding the Parties' Positions on Energy and Environmental Policies

As the nation gears up for a general election, the issue of energy and environmental policies is a key issue for many. With the twin challenges of climate change and energy security looming large, each party has put forth its vision for tackling these pressing matters. Let's delve into their proposed approaches and contrasting ideologies.

Disclaimer: This article is written from an apolitical stance and derived from various information on the party websites. This is not meant to be a complete exposé of the various policies and depths each party bring but as a means to provoke thought and spur personal investigation.

The Conservative Party: Pragmatism and Fossil Fuel Support

The Conservatives are advocating for a "more pragmatic, proportionate, and realistic approach" to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Their plan includes:

- Easing the transition to electric vehicles from 2030 to 2035, aligning with other countries.
- Extending the time-line for households to switch to heat pumps and exempting some homes where it is impractical.
- Scrapping expensive energy efficiency requirements and not forcing alterations on households.
- Avoiding measures like carpooling mandates, multiple bin segregation, or taxes on flying and meat consumption.
- Supporting new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea to reduce reliance on imports.

The Tories argue that the UK has over-delivered on its emissions reduction targets, with the fastest decline in the G7. They aim to embrace green economic opportunities by funding projects like Sizewell C nuclear power station, small modular reactors, wind farms, and green research and

development (R&D).

However, they criticise Labour's plan for £28 billion in annual borrowing, claiming it would increase inflation and exacerbate the cost-of-living crisis.

Labour Party: A Clean Energy Revolution

Labour presents a stark contrast, promising a "Clean Energy Mission" to achieve energy independence and lower bills. Their key proposals include:

- Implementing a proper windfall tax on the excess profits of oil and gas companies to support households.
- Establishing a publicly owned "Great British Energy" company to invest in clean energy nationwide, such as floating offshore wind farms.
- Creating a National Wealth Fund to attract private investment in ports, gigafactories, hydrogen, and steel industry protection.
- Upgrading the national grid infrastructure to facilitate the transition to renewables. Improving home insulation to reduce energy consumption and create jobs.
- Rapidly expanding offshore wind, onshore wind, solar, and nuclear power generation, including small modular reactors.
- Doubling the government's target for green hydrogen production.

Labour accuses the Conservatives of failing to invest in clean energy, leaving the UK exposed to volatile international markets and high energy bills. They aim to seize the opportunities presented by the global shift towards clean power, promising jobs, lower bills, and energy security.

Liberal Democrats: A Balanced Approach

The Liberal Democrats strike a balance, acknowledging the urgency of the climate crisis while emphasising the economic benefits of a green transition. Their manifesto includes:

- Cutting greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2045.
- Generating 80% of the UK's electricity from renewables by 2030.
- Providing free retrofits for low-income homes and tax incentives for others to improve energy efficiency.
- Restructuring government to deliver net zero, including a Net Zero Delivery Authority and empowering local authorities.
- Planting 60 million trees annually to offset emissions and restore habitats.
- Ensuring the UK's trade agreements prioritise net zero commitments.
- Improving standards for new homes to make them energy-efficient and zero-emission.
- Making pensions comply with the Paris Agreement's climate goals.

The Lib Dems also pledge to tackle sewage discharges by transforming water companies into public benefit corporations, banning bonuses for executives until discharges end, and replacing the regulator Ofwat with a tougher body.

Reform UK Party: Rejecting Net Zero

Taking a contrarian stance, Reform UK embraces environmentalism and taking action for a clean environment but rejects the concept of net zero emissions altogether and takes the stance that the climate crisis, is not a crisis. Their arguments include:

- Climate change is a natural phenomenon that has occurred for millions of years, and adaptation is preferable to mitigation.
- Human CO2 emissions represent only 3% of the 0.04% of CO2 in the atmosphere and are essential for plant growth.
- The UK's emissions account for just 1% of the 3% global total, while China and India account for more than 40% of emissions combined and continue building coal-fired power plants.
- The cost of achieving net zero in the UK is estimated at £2 trillion or more, an unsustainable burden.

Reform UK proposes scrapping net zero policies and related subsidies, saving an estimated £20 billion annually for the public sector. Rather than importing energy, they advocate "using the treasure under our feet", fast-tracking North Sea oil and gas exploration, granting shale gas licences, and transitioning to clean nuclear, lithium mining for batteries and clean coal mining. Reform UK strategy is to provide cheap energy to the UK, generating billions for the taxpayer, with the hope to transform the nation's fortunes and prosperity for generations to come.

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The Green Party: Leading the Climate Emergency Response

The Green Party views the climate crisis as the greatest issue facing humanity, demanding an emergency global response in which the UK must take a leading role. Their transformative policies aim to rapidly decarbonise the economy and society in line with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Key proposals include:

- Eliminating all UK carbon dioxide emissions within 10 years through a centrally-led programme
- Creating a Climate Emergency Agency with veto power over policies inconsistent with emissions targets
- Implementing carbon taxes, publicity campaigns, and potential rationing to reduce energy demand
- Switching the energy system from fossil fuels to 100% renewables like offshore wind, solar and marine

- Phasing out nuclear power, coal plants, and waste incineration in favour of clean energy sources
- Transforming heating for buildings using solar thermal, heat pumps, biofuels, and geothermal
- Incentivising industry to adopt renewable heat, hydrogen, synthetic fuels, and low-carbon electricity
- Electrifying transport, expanding public transit, rail, and cycling while discouraging air travel
- Requiring divestment from fossil fuels by UK pension funds and investment managers
- Investing in carbon capture/storage, smart grids, energy storage, and emerging clean technologies

The Greens argue their policies will drive a fair transition that safeguards the environment while providing economic opportunities, jobs, improved health, and long-term prosperity. They criticise approaches like carbon trading as insufficient for the radical realignment required.

UK POLITICAL PARTY GREEN COMPARISON

Issue / Party	Conservative	Labour	Lib Dems	Reform UK	Green Party
Net Zero Target	Maintain 2050 target with revised approach	Support 2050 target with clean energy investment	Accelerate to 2045 target	Scrap net zero entirely	Eliminate all UK CO2 emissions within 10 years
Electric Vehicles	Delay mandate to 2035	Expand charging infrastructure	Reduce VAT, mandate from 2030	No specific policy	Electrify transport, discourage air travel
Renewable Energy	Increase wind, solar, nuclear	Massive expansion of wind, solar, nuclear, hydrogen	80% renewable electricity by 2030	Scrap renewable subsidies	100% renewable energy, phase out nuclear/coal
Fossil Fuels	Support North Sea oil/gas	Windfall tax on profits	Gradual phasing out of fossil fuels	Fast-track North Sea and shale gas	Rapid Phasing out fossil fuels
Home Energy	Extend heat pump transition, scrap efficiency rules	Improve insulation, upgrade grid	Free retrofits for low-income homes, incentives	Cheaper home energy from fossil fuels	Renewable heat, no natural gas for buildings
Funding	Criticise Labour's £28bn borrowing. (No major funding strategy laid out)	£28bn/year borrowing for investment	No major borrowing strategy mentioned on website	Scrap net zero subsidies (£20bn+ savings). Income from fossil fuels (hundreds of billions over 30 years)	Carbon taxes and the potential of rationing.
Environmental Issues	No major policies	Automatic fines for water pollution	Transform water companies, clean air act	No specific policies	Climate Emergency Agency with veto powers

Monster Raving Loony Party

For those of you that politics can be a bit much, the MRLP provides some whimsical alternative perspectives. Whilst they have not got around to a detailed energy policy for their 2024 manifesto, here are some pearls from their 2022 Energy Policy.

Energy Policy:

1. We will get rid of the Energy Price Cap and replace it with a Top Hat (This will also help our Millinery Industry).
2. We will get rid of all Standing Charges. (We are quite capable of sitting down and freezing to death).
3. All the hot air spoken in Parliament will be redirected to the Gas Distribution Networks.

As we approach the elections this year do remember to vote. Sunsynk is in the unique position of operating in many countries all over the world with many various forms of governance. However you vote, we can be sure with such varying policies and perspectives that the coming years will be dramatically determined by the outcomes of the result.

Installer Spotlight

Name: John Wark

Company: Honest Solar

Location: Oxfordshire

Number of Sunsynk Systems Installed: 105

Favourite Sunsynk Product: The 5kW hybrid inverter. It's our most installed and packs a real punch giving a great discharge rate on the Sunsynk batteries vs other inverters of a similar size that discharge batteries at much slower rates. Our customers love them.



Honest Solar started as a result of encountering bad experiences from having our own Solar systems installed, and we wanted to make a difference. As a company we have over 20 years experience in the industry and currently install across the Home Counties and South Wales.

We are passionate about sustainability and renewable technology and believe becoming energy efficient should be a positive and exciting experience.

We have assembled a team who have a wealth of experience in this industry and existing relationships with some of the best suppliers and manufacturers in the market.

We've installed small domestic installs to huge country estates and schools and commercial jobs. From the 3.6kW to the 50kW.

We aim to make a difference by providing honest and reliable advice and assisting property owners to make informed decisions about their renewable energy systems.

Unfortunately, there is no one size fits all solution, so choosing the right system is critical.

We carry out extensive due diligence on all of our partners and products. This allows us to maintain consistently high installation standards using quality products always. Coming from professional backgrounds.

As a master installer we've embraced Sunsynk and installing it is a breeze. Our ethos is to always be honest and if something isn't right for the customer we won't sell it and definitely won't install it.





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Sunsynk 5kW Hybrid Inverter



Colourful touchscreen LCD.



AC couple to retrofit existing solar system.



Max. charging/discharging current of 120A.



IP65 protection degree.



Max. 16 pcs parallel for on-grid and off-grid operations, supporting multiple batteries in parallel.



6 time periods for battery charging/discharging.



The Vital Role of Battery Storage in Energy Independence

Maximise self-consumption of their own solar or wind power, minimising energy purchased from the grid.

Ultimately, it doesn't matter how many renewable energy sources you have, if you don't have battery storage then all of that energy will go back onto the grid, and likely be sold back to you for more money than you were paid to generate it. The future in the wild west of energy belongs to those that can generate, manage and store. Long gone are the days where a solar panel would cut it. Today it is essential to have the renewable generation such as solar panels, wind turbines etc., and to have a hybrid inverter and battery storage. These are essential elements for the homes of the future. Not only will it allow homeowners to manage energy such as buying cheaper off-peak energy but it will also allow them to store the renewable energy they have generated.

Only the smart ones will do this as they will see the future value in being energy independent. The British have always been a nation of people that value independence, however, we have grown to be a society totally dependent on our most precious need - energy. But lurking there in the British psyche is still the desire to be self-sufficient. That little thread that causes people to dig up their gardens and plant carrots and potatoes. Why? Because we value autonomy! We as a nation think carrots grown with our own bare hands for some reason taste a lot better, and to some degree it's true. But when it comes to energy we are only just beginning to taste what it's like to become energy independent again.

This isn't new. For most of our nation's history people were energy independent. We cut down trees to burn, we dug peat to burn, and it was only the transition to electricity that made it too hard to be self-sufficient. But still there was that flame of defiance in every single wood-burning stove

in the country that said I will not give up my right to energy autonomy. If I need to cook and stay warm there is some way I can still do that.

As we are drawing close to the quarter mark of this century we seem to be coming upon a new dawn. The technology has caught up to our innate desire for freedom. Companies such as Sunsynk that are making hybrid inverters, batteries and solar arrays, are providing homeowners the opportunity to harness nature for our power. Much like cutting down a tree to burn, these new transformative technologies are allowing everyday people to capture energy from sun, wind and earth, and store that electricity for use as and when is needed.

It is a beautiful movement that is taking place where humans are defeating the problems that have beset us. As a species, human history is a story of technological advancement to solve a problem that makes life better for us. Battery storage is the key that unlocks true energy independence in the modern age.

Sunsynk has been one of the forerunners in this movement and has transformed the lives of millions of people all across the planet. What is truly remarkable is the wave of change that Sunsynk's inventions have created. Many people's whole careers and therefore lives have been impacted by these new technologies pioneered back in the 1990s by Keith and his team.

As installers, it's important to remember this motivation toward independence and freedom that is at the centre of the British mind. From home-grown vegetables to home-generated energy you are the bearers of good news



that this new transition is not just a hope but a very real possibility.

The ramifications of this energy transformation are hard to determine, but they will be far-reaching. Coupled with the advent of AI which is very new in the eco-tech space, the possibilities are vast and exciting, ushering in a new golden age of energy abundance. No longer will we be beholden to energy companies and rising prices. Instead, the power - literally and figuratively - will be in our hands.

Storing renewable energy in batteries gives households full control over their energy usage. They can maximise self-consumption of their own solar or wind power, minimising energy purchased from the grid. Any excess can be banked for later rather than exported for a minimal return. Combining batteries with smart home energy management systems can minimise costs further through load-shifting and time-of-use tariff optimisation.

Moreover, pairing batteries with renewable generation makes households resilient to grid outages. Blackouts caused by storms, cyber attacks or issues with centralised power infrastructure impact millions each year. With an off-grid battery backup, the lights and modern conveniences can stay on uninterrupted.

On a larger scale, battery storage is the key to transitioning to a fully renewable-powered grid. The inherent variability of wind and solar energy has been one of the biggest barriers to their widespread adoption. But utility-scale battery farms, distributed residential batteries, and electric vehicle-to-grid systems can collectively smooth out peaks and valleys in renewable generation. This energy buffering is what makes a 100% clean energy future feasible.

Some might assume that being energy independent means going off-grid entirely, but in reality it is a spectrum. Customers can optimise how grid-tied or grid-independent they wish to be based on their circumstances, beliefs and finances. The technologies for full energy self-sufficiency exist today, but grid defection may not be the most practical or economical solution for all.

What is certain is that having battery storage provides invaluable flexibility, resilience and autonomy - qualities that epitomise the spirit of the British people. As this movement gains momentum, UK households and businesses will be able to wrest back control of their energy destiny. With renewable generation and storage in hand, we can finally declare independence from the shackles of centralised dirty energy and its incessant rising costs.

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Rent-to-Own Solar

Unlocking clean energy for all

As the UK pushes towards its ambitious net zero goals, the need for accessible and affordable renewable energy has never been greater. However, the high upfront costs of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems have long been a barrier for many homeowners looking to make the switch to solar power. This is where the innovative rent-to-own solar business model comes into play, offering a potential game-changer for the UK's solar installation industry.

What is Rent-to-Own Solar?

Not to be confused with the rent-a-roof scheme which is slightly different and has decreased in popularity since the FIT were introduced. Rent-to-own is gaining traction in the UK. Rather than requiring customers to purchase a solar PV system outright, or the installer to make back their money from excess energy sold back to the grid, the rent-to-own model allows homeowners to essentially lease the system through long-term rental agreements. They pay a fixed monthly fee to have solar panels installed on their roof, enabling them to go solar with little or no upfront costs. If set up through the appropriate solar leasing partners the installer gets paid fully up front, and everyone wins. At the end of the rental period, typically 15-25 years, the customer owns the system outright.

For solar installers, this emerging business model opens up vast new market opportunities by making solar energy accessible to a wider range of customers who may have previously been put off by prohibitive upfront costs.

The South African Energy Crisis Fueling Innovation

In South Africa, where the rent-to-own model is rapidly gaining traction, the rationale for such an approach is crystal clear. As the country grapples with a crippling energy crisis marked by frequent power outages (load shedding), solar inverters and batteries are not just a nice-to-have but rather have become a vital solution for homeowners and businesses seeking reliable, uninterrupted power.

Leading South African company and Sunsynk Master

Installer, Versofy, has been at the forefront of this energy revolution. "The 'rent-to-own' model is a straightforward yet innovative approach," explains a Versofy spokesperson. "It allows homeowners to install solar panels with minimal initial investment... making solar power accessible to a broader demographic."

The financial benefits are substantial, with Versofy estimating homeowners can save over R300,000 (around £13,500) in electricity costs over 20 years by going solar. And as the cost of traditional grid power continues to rise, those savings will only increase.

But the impact extends far beyond just cost savings. As Versofy puts it, "Embracing solar power through a rent-to-own system is more than just personal gain; it's a collective step towards addressing our national energy crisis."

Asian Markets Embracing the Rent-to-Own Revolution

The rent-to-own solar model is also rapidly gaining ground across Asia. Pioneering companies like GetSolar in Singapore are driving this transition by offering affordable solar rental plans with no upfront costs.

"One of the main advantages of rent-to-own solar is the absence of upfront expenses," explains GetSolar. "This mitigates the risk of substantial capital investment in a system that might fail prematurely."

With monthly rental fees frequently undercutting traditional electricity bills, the customer savings are instantaneous. Maintenance and repair costs are also covered, providing a hassle-free experience.

For installers, GetSolar's approach highlights the massive potential of the rent-to-own model to reach an entirely new customer base through affordable, flexible payment plans.

A Watershed Moment for UK Solar Installers?

As the rent-to-own solar model continues to flourish globally, there are compelling reasons for UK solar installers to seriously explore this business opportunity.

By partnering with third-party solar leasing companies, installers can:

- Reach new market segments put off by upfront costs
- Enjoy a steady stream of installation work from leasing partners
- Avoid financing/ownership hassles while receiving installer fees
- Potentially earn recurring revenue from maintenance/monitoring services

While the upfront purchase model will remain an option for some customers, rent-to-own offers a way for installers to open the solar market to a vastly wider audience. A majority of the middle classes in the UK are used to paying for things gradually whether it be their phone contracts, car contracts, mortgages, holidays, or even white goods. This could be the breakthrough needed to drive widespread residential solar adoption across the UK.

Sunsynk, a global manufacturer, (the market leader in South Africa) is already seeing this solar leasing option is opening up significant opportunities for installers, where price was previously prohibitive.

The Road Ahead for Affordable Clean Energy

As the urgency around climate action intensifies, making renewable energy accessible to all will be pivotal. The rent-to-own solar model represents a powerful pathway to that goal.

For UK solar installers, it's an opportunity to rethink their business approach and embrace a model that could revolutionise the industry while accelerating the nation's transition towards sustainable energy. While challenges remain in the UK market, for example, the cost of living crisis, as at any time in history it is those willing to adapt and drive innovative solutions that will be the beneficiaries.

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The Renewable Energy Revolution in the Philippines

As the devastating impacts of climate change become ever more apparent, the need to transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy sources has never been more urgent. The Philippines, an archipelagic nation highly vulnerable to rising sea levels and extreme weather events, is recognising this imperative and making strides to ramp up its adoption of clean energy technologies.

According to the latest figures, renewable energy accounted for 22% of the Philippines' energy mix as of 2022. However, climate and energy experts argue that the country could be even more ambitious in driving this transition forward, given its abundant natural resources suitable for renewable power generation.

"The Philippines is doing pretty well because the policies are being implemented," said Ramnath Iyer, research lead on Climate & Renewable Energy Finance for Asia at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). "But given the entire range and the diversity of renewable resources available, it really can be pushing the envelope further and going for a more aggressive phase-out of fossil fuels."

Hitting Ambitious Targets

The Philippine government has set targets to raise the share of renewable energy to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040. To meet these goals, it has implemented policies such as the Green Energy Auction Programme (GEAP), feed-in tariffs, net-metering schemes, and tax incentives for renewable projects.

These efforts are bearing fruit, with the Philippines ranking fourth among the most attractive emerging markets for renewable energy investment in the latest BloombergNEF Climatescope report. The country has awarded 3.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity through its second

green energy auction, including 1.2 GW of solar and wind projects scheduled for completion between 2024 and 2045.

Thanks in part to limited restrictions on foreign ownership in the sector, investment in Philippine clean energy projects soared 41% year-on-year in 2022 to reach \$1.34 billion (₱74.57 billion).

Cementing Renewables Commitment at COP28

Complementing these domestic actions, the Philippine government has committed to a pledge aimed at vastly increasing renewable energy use and efficiency during the COP28 climate summit in Dubai, as stated by the Department of Energy on Thursday. The Philippines joins over 120 nations backing the European Union's Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, which strives to triple the world's renewable capacity while doubling energy efficiency measures.

This undertaking aligns seamlessly with the nation's goal of boosting the renewables' share in its energy mix to 35% by 2030 and an ambitious 50% by 2040, according to the energy department. Furthermore, it complements the Philippines' objective of slashing electricity and oil consumption by 10% before 2050.

A Vibrant Private Sector Drives Growth

Unlike some of its Southeast Asian neighbours where state-owned enterprises dominate the energy landscape, the Philippines boasts a "vibrant" private sector that is playing a leading role in the country's clean energy transition.

Major players include ACEN, which operates over 600 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity across the Philippines and the region. In a significant step, the company recently exited its largest coal-fired plant through a privately financed transition mechanism. Other key firms

include Citicore Renewable Energy Corporation, a solar power pioneer; geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation; and diversified renewable energy producers like Aboitiz Power and Solar Philippines.

"A lot of these companies are relatively young. It also shows there is a thriving private sector in the Philippines, which can take advantage of these [opportunities] if the government sets the right incentives and makes the playing field level for all the players," Iyer commented.

The government recognises that the public sector alone cannot finance the massive investments required for an economy-wide energy transition. Marko Lackovic, managing director at Boston Consulting Group, noted, "Unlike its neighbouring countries...the private sector plays a bigger role in the Philippines," adding that this bodes well for renewable deployment given the constraints on public funds.

Overcoming Barriers

However, significant barriers must still be overcome to accelerate the pace of the Philippine renewable energy revolution. Escalating global interest rates are driving up financing costs for projects, in some cases making them uncompetitive by the time construction is complete. Unclear permitting processes at both national and local levels are also causing delays.

To address these challenges, Iyer recommended the government conduct zoning studies to clearly demarcate areas suitable for renewable development and implement a streamlined, transparent permitting system. Investments in modernising and expanding the national grid infrastructure will also be crucial as more intermittent solar and wind capacity comes online.

Prioritising energy storage is another key priority, according to Iyer. "We need to have storage, either standalone or as a part of utility...and we need to see it more incentivised because right now, storage is still expensive."

Renewable Potential and Economic Benefits

Avril De Torres, deputy executive director at the Centre for Energy, Ecology and Development, lauded the government's backing of the COP28 pledge while urging its materialization "by abandoning coal and gas, and halting any exploration of perilous technologies such as nuclear energy."

"We are a nation fully capable of more than tripling our renewable energy utilisation," she affirmed.

A CEED-commissioned analysis recommends the Philippines eliminate coal reliance by 2035 and almost entirely phase out gas-fired power generation by 2040 to align with the 1.5C goal. Currently, fossil fuels account for a substantial 60% of the Philippines' electricity generation, with coal shouldering the lion's share. The analysis further reveals that an additional 152 terawatt-hours of electricity will be required by 2050 to meet escalating demand while concurrently phasing out fossil fuels.

Notably, the report found that weaning off fossil fuels and transitioning to renewables would not only reduce electricity costs but also generate approximately one million new jobs. "It is high time for our nation to seize this immense potential," De Torres emphasised.

Khevin Yu, energy transition campaigner at Greenpeace Philippines, underscored the need for stronger policies that mandate "an urgent and just transition, alongside an ambitious energy transition blueprint reflecting leadership beyond mere lip service."

A Renewable Future for Economic and Energy Security

Ultimately, however, the Philippines cannot afford to falter in its pursuit of renewable energy if it hopes to sustain long-term economic growth while enhancing its energy security and climate resilience. The imminent depletion of the country's major indigenous gas field, Malampaya, within the next five years underscores the urgency of this transition. With fossil fuel imports far more costly than domestic supply, expanded renewable generation offers a pathway to affordable and secure energy for Filipino households and businesses.

Han Phoumin, a senior economist, advised the Philippines to "implement clear policy support and incentives for renewable energy projects such as tax breaks [and] lowering the capital expenditure for renewables." He also highlighted the importance of establishing a robust carbon pricing mechanism to accelerate the decarbonisation of the power sector. If the government can double down on its current policies while addressing outstanding obstacles, the Philippines is positioned to leapfrog regional peers like Vietnam to become one of the world's leading markets for renewable energy deployment by 2030.

This clean energy revolution promises not only a sustainable future for the Philippines, but one of economic opportunity and enhanced energy independence as the country harnesses its vast renewable resources. With climate impacts intensifying, the incentives to accelerate this transition have never been greater.

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Lifelynk Series

All-In-One Hybrid Inverter & Battery



Rapid
Battery Charging



Easy
Installation



Solar Panel
Compatible



Monitor Savings
with the Free
Mobile App



WiFi
Compatible



Fun Fact:


The 1970s oil crisis indirectly sparked solar technology research

The oil crisis of the 1970s revealed how delicate fossil fuels are as an energy source. This resulted in research into alternative energy solutions, such as solar renewable energy technologies. During the decade, solar and wind energy began to gain momentum globally.


(Ref: Freedonsolarpower.com)


Industry Events During Q3 2024

This summer Sunsynk will be exhibiting in Europe, Asia and Africa. The demand for Sunsynk products is exploding around the world and new markets are opening up every quarter. See the links below to keep up to date with the latest product releases and innovations.





Solar & Storage Live 2024 - Vietnam
Dates: 10-11 July 2024
Location: Ho Chi City, Vietnam
www.terrapinn.com/exhibition/solar-storage-live-london/index.stm







Solar & Storage Live 2024 - Zurich
Dates: 10-11 July 2024
Location: Messe, Zürich
<https://www.terrapinn.com/exhibition/solar-storage-live-zurich/index.stm>






Solar & Storage Live 2024 - Vietnam
Dates: 27-28 August 2024
Location: Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town
<https://www.terrapinn.com/exhibition/solar-storage-live-cape-town/index.stm>





IFA - Berlin
Dates: 6-10 September 2024
Location: Messe Berlin, Germany
<https://www.ifa-berlin.com>



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Find your nearest distributor using the QR code below and start installing Sunsynk today.

Link to find out more

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Beginners
For beginners or if you want to find out more about our inverters and what they can do for you.
Visit: www.sunsynk.org/ourinverters



Approved Installers
To see our approved installers and their locations please scan the code.
Visit: <https://www.sunsynk.org/approvedinstallers>



Global Sales Team
To contact a member of our sales team please scan the code.
Visit: www.sunsynk.org/globalsalesteam



Technical Support
For advice, help or troubleshooting please scan the code.
Visit: <https://www.sunsynk.org/tech-support>



Our Distributors
To see distributors in your area please scan the code.
Visit: www.sunsynk.org/ourdistributors



Keith's message to our Sunsynk installers for 2024





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