

South America Energy Storage Power Station Hydropower Bureau 14





Overview

Is hydropower a cornerstone of South America's energy infrastructure?

Providing 45% of electricity supply in South America, hydropower stands “as a cornerstone of the region’s energy infrastructure”, the International Hydropower Association reports in its 2024 World Hydropower Outlook.

Is hydropower a threat to South America's Future?

Hydropower remains a cornerstone of South America’s energy mix, providing 45% of the continent’s electricity in 2023. Yet, as the International Hydropower Association's 2024 report highlights, ageing infrastructure, climate change impacts, and declining foreign investment threaten its future.

Why is hydropower important in South America?

Hydropower is vital for South America’s energy mix, and thanks to natural resources such as the Andes mountains and the Amazon basin, potential for generation is vast. A mere 30% of the region’s hydropower potential is currently being exploited, but even that satisfies approximately 45% of the continent’s electricity demand.

Which countries have the most hydropower in South America?

The region’s hydropower capacity is predominantly concentrated in countries like Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Peru. Chile is one country in South America that has many power plants that help provides a great source of electricity. Chile has more than 30 hydroelectric power plants.



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South America

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