

Solar power latvia

Having invested more than 10 million euros, the investment fund "Merito Sustainable Energy Fund I" (Merito) plans to deploy 24,000 solar panels in Kalkane. Annually, the solar power plant will produce 13,500 megawatt-hours of electricity, which will be enough to fully supply at least 6,500 households in the Daugavpils area.

"We are located in Kalkane parish, we will start work here, we will build a solar panel park. Here will be the southern field, across the road on the other side will be the northern field, it will be bigger. In total, we will produce nearly 14,000 megawatt hours of electricity here and place 24,000 solar panels. It will be the largest park in Latvia," said Jānis Bērziņš, the construction manager of the solar power plant Kalknes SES.

Photo: Silvija Smagare/Latvijas Radio

"We will try to finish it by the end of the year. Work has already begun on the assembly of the panel structure to prepare for the laying of the panels," Bērziņš said.

Kalkane parish has only around 2,000 inhabitants, but borders the city of Daugavpils, a large energy consumer.

"This is one of the most important criteria - we choose to build solar power plants as close as possible to consumption. The electricity produced by one of the Daugava hydroelectric plants must travel through long cables to reach Daugavpils or the Upper Daugava region. But this power plant will be very close, and practically everything produced at the station will automatically reach Daugavpils consumers and companies immediately," Plūme said.

Residents of the neighborhood can't immediately be promised cheaper electricity bills, as the national grid is involved, but a greater supply of environmentally-friendly energy should ultimately benefit all consumers.

Kalknes SES is located in Kalkne parish, Augšdaugava municipality, 10 kilometers from the center of Daugavpils. With an installed capacity of 13.3 megawatts, it will produce at least 13,500 megawatt hours of renewable energy annually in the future. The new power plant has been developed with a connection to the distribution infrastructure so that residents and businesses consume the electricity generated.

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Almost EUR 10 million of Latvian capital, including EUR 4.7 million co-financed by Swedbank, has been invested in the development of Kalkšņe SES. The owner of the new solar power plant is Merito Sustainable Energy Fund I, a local investment fund. Last year, with the renewable energy project developer Saules Energy, it built four new solar power plants (SPPs) in Zilupe, Brenguši, Inčukalns, and Carnikava with a total capacity of 25 MW. Three more projects in Koknese, Cēsis, and Valmiera will be completed by autumn 2024.

"The eight new plants will generate a total of at least 70,000 MWh of electricity per year, supplying more than 35,000 households across Latvia with green energy," said Mikus Janvars, co-founder and managing partner of Merito Partners.

The general contractor of the project "Kalkšņe SES" is the Latvian company "KL Systems" with many years of experience in constructing industrial solar parks in Europe and other parts of the world.

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Web: <https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

