

## Uganda green electricity

The Cop29 summit is held between world nations who are committed to reducing their carbon footprint. This year, at the meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, many of them signed up to an energy transition agreement, including Uganda.

Uganda's plan is a new one and has come into fruition after many years of research and funding, but not many people know what the country has committed to as it starts the energy transition process.

This article aims to answer that question and shed some light on how the energy transition deal could help the fight against climate change.

The world's reliance on fossil fuels remains stubbornly high. Despite a record year for renewable energy, global fossil fuel consumption reached a new peak in 2023, according to a recent Energy Institute report.

What's more, recent studies have found that even various online activities need a lot of energy to fulfil, regardless of the location. Cryptocurrency mining is one famous example, with miners using on average 40 kWh per week. Even seemingly minor activities, like visiting an online casino, needs the use of data centers which have also been found to consume huge amounts of energy.

It's prompted some developing countries to reassess their output, with Uganda being one of them. The East African nation, with its rich renewable energy potential and growing energy demand, confirmed at Cop29 that it's charting a course towards a greener future.

Uganda's recent strides in the energy sector are nothing short of remarkable.

The commissioning of the Karuma Hydropower Plant, along with the existing Isimba Hydropower Plant, has dramatically grown the country's electricity generation capacity. Not only does this surge illuminate Ugandan homes but it also positions the nation as a regional energy hub.

The vision is clear: to not just provide enough energy for itself, but to export surplus electricity to neighboring countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Rwanda.

The Ugandan government plans to use the East African Power Pool, a cross-country energy-sharing initiative, to solve energy poverty in the region and stimulate economic growth among its members. A gas-powered transition

Renewable energy is the cornerstone of Uganda's energy future, but the country is also exploring the



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potential of its natural gas reserves.

This revolves around converting associated gas into Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). In doing so, Uganda expects to reduce its reliance on traditional fuels like charcoal and firewood: both substances that add to deforestation and air pollution.

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