

Excerpt from The New Times, Africa, January 19, 2021

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/business/solar-energy-boom-africa-facing-unprecedented-opportunity>

With the solar energy boom, Africa is facing an unprecedented opportunity

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.... The WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index of 87 companies has soared 31% this year, eclipsing the Nasdaq's 21 per cent gain.

In terms of energy consumption, Africa has some interesting statistics. The continent boasts 16% of the global population, yet accounts for only 6% of the global energy demand and under 3% of electricity demand. These numbers have much to do with the fact that out of the 940 million people living without electricity access globally, 70% reside in Africa. In the past decade, countries across the continent have turned to renewable, mostly solar-based off-grid energy solutions, and with hundreds of millions of potential customers, the possibilities for the renewable sector are pretty much endless.

All renewable, all good

Unlike other countries, where 100 per cent of the population has access to electricity, and energy consumption is an obvious concept, Africa, and more specifically the Sub Saharan region is in dire need of energy solutions. 600 million people do not have electricity in their homes, with entire communities and extensive rural regions remaining completely off grid. This presents an opportunity for vast deployment of renewable solutions that are scalable and affordable, while also adhering to the desired sustainability act that most of Africa's countries have pledged to under the Paris Agreement.

As Africa steps into a new year that has sustainability written all over it, the continent has an incredible potential to situate itself as the global leader of the sustainability era. Hundreds of millions can leapfrog classic energy solutions and go straight to solar, wind or hydro.

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