



ANGLAIS

Ghana Solar Energy Plant Set to be Africa's Largest

A British firm has announced plans to build what it claims to be the biggest photovoltaic solar power plant in Africa. The Nzema project, based in Ghana, will be able to provide electricity to more than 100,000 homes. Construction work on the plant is due to start within 12 months. The developers say that they are optimistic that finance for the project will be confirmed within six months. The initiative is being developed by Blue Energy, a renewable energy investment company based in the United Kingdom (UK).

Dozens of solar projects have been announced across Africa in recent years but few have been on this ambitious scale says industry analyst Ash Sharma at IMS Research. He says the 155 megawatt plant will increase Ghana's generation capacity by 6%. "It is the biggest single project that's going ahead at the moment," he told BBC News. "It is not the biggest in the world, but if it goes ahead it will be the biggest in Africa." He says that a key element in helping the project go ahead has been Ghana's renewable energy law under which the plant has been awarded a feed-in tariff for 20 years. These are premium prices, guaranteed for the working life of the site.

Project director Douglas Coleman, from Mere Power Nzema Ltd., who will build the plant, said that it was "fully cooked" in planning terms. "The project has land, it has planning consent, it has a generating license, and it has received a feed-in tariff," he said, "it is the right plant in the right place at the right time." He was confident that the finance needed to build the plant could be raised in the next six months.

Unlike many other solar projects in Africa that use concentrated solar power, the Nzema plant will use photovoltaic technology to convert sunlight directly into electricity. Douglas Coleman says the characteristics of the sun in Ghana favour photovoltaic.

Demand for renewable energy has been held back in emerging economies like Ghana by high cost, but a recent glut² of solar panels on world markets has seen prices tumble – much to the advantage of African countries.

by Matt McGrath, Environment correspondent, BBC News
BBC NEW Sciences & Environment, 4 December 2012.

FOOTNOTES:

1 tarif de subventionnement

2 surabondance

I. READING COMPREHENSION

(8 marks)

A. Answers to Questions:

(2 marks)

1. Which paragraph of the text shows that Ghana plant is the most important solar project all around Africa? Illustrate it with a sentence from the text:

a. Paragraph number: -----

b. Sentence: -----

2. Which paragraph indicates the project is well conceived or well planned? Illustrate it with a sentence from the text:

a. Paragraph number: -----

b. Passage: -----

B. Read the text carefully and complete the chart with information from the text. (1 mark)

The Possibilities for Developing Countries to Access Renewable Sources of Energy

	Situation	Cause
In the Past	Difficult access to renewable energy	3. ----- -----
Today	Easy access to renewable energy	4. ----- -----

C. TRUE / FALSE: Say whether the statements are True or False. Justify by quoting the relevant passage from the text.

(3 marks)

5. The Nzema project is supported by local investors.

6. Legislation on renewable energy in Ghana may be an obstacle to the project.

7. Demand for renewable energy has not been satisfied because the cost of solar panels is still very high.

Find what the underlined words refer to in the text.

(1 mark)

8. “The initiative”: -----

9. “a key element” -----

D. What do the following figures refer to?

(1 mark)

10. 6%: -----

11. 20 years: -----

Find in the text words which mean the same as:

(2 marks)

12. exceptional = -----

13. offer = -----

14. collapse = -----

15. level = -----

II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE**(6 marks)****E. Fill in the gaps with the right form of the verb.****(1.5 marks)**

Since the early days of the industrial Age, industries and utility companies -----
 ----- ¹⁶ (**relied / have relied / had relied**) on a variety of different sources of power. The
 energy stored in coal, oil and natural gas is the result of photosynthesis carried out by plants
 that ----- ¹⁷ (**live / lived / have lived**). But clearly, the production of vast
 amounts of energy using technology that exploits renewable ----- ¹⁸
 (**will be needed / would be needed / have been needed**) as the world enters the inevitable
 post fossil fuel era.

F. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words.**(2 marks)**

The reason the technology has not been ----- ¹⁹ (**succeed**) is that it
 has been too expensive. But the costs of solar energy have evolved -----
 ----- ²⁰ (**favourable**) to the benefit of developing countries. This will facilitate the -----
 ----- ²¹ (**emerge**) of new poles of industrial development likely to -----
 ----- ²² (**absorption**) massive demand for youth jobs.

G. Reformulate the sentences using the prompts given.**(1.5 marks)**

23. "Our plant is the biggest single project that's going ahead at the moment", Coleman said.
 Coleman said -----

24. Although new technologies are introduced to increase power production capacity, Africa
 is still facing power shortage.

In spite of -----

25. The Ghanaian authorities say that the Nzema project will engage their country towards a
 sustainable development.

The Nzema project -----

H. Ask questions corresponding to the underlined words.**(1 mark)**

26. He says the 155 megawatt plant will increase Ghana's generating capacity by 6%.

27. The Nzema plant has been awarded a feed-in tariff for 20 years by Ghana's Renewable
 Energy Law.

III. WRITING**(4 marks)****Topic 1:**

"The future is bright if renewable energy sources are fully exploited around the world." Do
 you agree with this assertion? Defend your point of view.

Topic 2:

With the high cost of fossil fuels, is it time for countries like Senegal to exploit their huge
 potentials in new energy sources ? Give your point of view.