

## Press release

### Now running at full power: RWE supplies solar electricity from Hambach opencast mine

- **RWE Neuland Solar Farm now fully operational**
- **22,000 solar modules deliver enough green electricity to supply more than 3,100 households; optimised electricity feed-in thanks to battery storage**
- **Further photovoltaic plant under construction; to be commissioned in 2024**
- **RWE and Neuland Hambach GmbH sign collaboration agreement**

Essen, 21 May 2024

RWE is continuing to progress full speed ahead on green electricity production in the Rhenish mining area. At the foot of the Sophienhöhe hill in the Hambach opencast mine, the company has now fully commissioned a further photovoltaic plant with integrated battery storage system. The new plant was installed on a gravel field near the shore of the future Hambach Lake. Until the lake is completely filled with water, around 40 years from now, the area is being put to good temporary use to produce green energy and benefit the environment.

The [RWE Neuland Solar Farm](#) has a capacity of 12 megawatts peak (8.4 MWac). Its 22,000 solar modules produce enough green electricity to supply the equivalent of more than 3,100 households.

Bifacial modules, which are photosensitive on both sides, were installed. In addition to sunlight hitting the panels directly, they can also utilise light reflected by the ground. This makes these modules extremely efficient. The battery storage system is designed for a two-hour charging and supply cycle of over eight megawatt hours, functioning as a buffer between generation and grid.

**Katja Wünschel, CEO RWE Renewables Europe & Australia:** “RWE Neuland Solar Farm is already the fourth large solar project we have commissioned in the Rhenish mining area within a very short period of time, again in combination with a battery storage system. We are stepping up the pace, in particular in our home market in Germany. We plan to implement wind and solar projects with a total capacity of at least 1,000 megawatts by 2030 in North Rhine-Westphalia alone.”

**Lars Kulik, CTO Lignite at RWE Power:** “This solar farm is the visible manifestation of how structural change and energy transition can succeed. Until the lake at Hambach opencast mine is completely filled with water, we have around 40 years to put the area to good temporary use to generate green electricity. In this way, even opencast mines that are still active can already contribute towards the energy transition.”

# RWE

Next to the RWE Neuland Solar Farm, another photovoltaic plant is currently under construction – the RWE Neuland 1 Solar Farm. During the first construction phase, 36,700 modules with a combined capacity of 20 megawatts peak (17.6 MWac) are being installed. The second construction phase is due to be completed this summer, expanding the plant's capacity by another 15.2 megawatts peak (12 MWac). A further solar farm at Hambach opencast mine is already at the planning stage.

RWE is planning to jointly operate the solar projects at the Hambach opencast mine with Neuland Hambach GmbH. The company is coordinating the structural change around the opencast mine and is playing a key role in shaping it. The two parties recently signed an agreement to formalise their collaboration.

## **RWE is continuing to expand renewables in Germany at pace**

RWE has more than 20 years of experience in developing, constructing and operating renewable energy plants. In its home market of Germany, the company is operating onshore wind and solar farms with a total installed capacity of around 700 megawatts – including four combined solar-storage plants in the Rhenish mining area. In addition, the company's first [Agri-PV demonstration plant](#) has been built on recultivated land, which was previously part of the Garzweiler opencast mine. In total, RWE is planning to invest around 11 billion euros net in green generation capacities in Germany over the next seven years.

RWE is looking for locations across all of Germany to further drive the expansion of renewables. Whenever a site is deemed suitable for wind turbines or solar plants, the company looks after all aspects of the planning and building process as well as the operation of the plant.

### **For further enquiries:**

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You can **find additional information on RWE's solar projects** [here](#).

### **Photovoltaic plants at Hambach opencast mine**

|  |          |           |
|--|----------|-----------|
| <b>Photovoltaic plant “RWE Neuland Solarpark” (in operation)</b>                                     | 12 MWp   | 8.4 MWac  |
| <b>Battery storage “RWE Neuland Solarpark” (in operation)</b>  | 4.1 MW   | 8.1 MWh   |
| <b>Photovoltaic plant (under construction)<br/>“RWE Neuland 1 Solarpark” - 1. construction phase</b> | 20 MWp   | 17.6 MWac |
| <b>Photovoltaic plant (under construction)<br/>“RWE Neuland 1 Solarpark” - 2. construction phase</b> | 15.2 MWp | 12 MWac   |
| <b>PV Hambach Niederzier (under development)</b>   | 14.2 MWp | 12.3 MWac |



### “RWE inland Solarpark” at Inden opencast mine (in operation)

|                    |          |         |
|--------------------|----------|---------|
| Photovoltaic plant | 14.4 MWp | 8 MWac  |
| Battery storage    | 4.8 MW   | 9.6 MWh |

### Photovoltaic plants at Garzweiler opencast mine (in operation)

|                               |          |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Photovoltaic plant Garzweiler | 19.4 MWp | 12 MWac  |
| Battery storage Garzweiler    | 6.5 MW   | 13 MWh   |
| Photovoltaic plant Jackerath  | 12.1 MWp | 8 MWac   |
| Battery storage Jackerath     | 4.1 MW   | 8.1 MWh  |
| Agri-PV demonstration plant   | 3.2 MWp  | 2.5 MWac |

|   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Photovoltaic plant Bedburg (under construction) | 20 MWp | 15.7 MWac |
|---|--------|-----------|

#### RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With its investment and growth strategy Growing Green, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. Between 2024 and 2030, RWE will invest 55 billion euros worldwide in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy, batteries, flexible generation, and hydrogen projects. By the end of the decade, the company’s green portfolio will grow to more than 65 gigawatts of generation capacity, which will be perfectly complemented by global energy trading. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net-zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company’s purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

#### Forward-looking statements

*This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations, and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company’s future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.*

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