

Press release

Energy transition live: Fifth solar farm in opencast mine commissioned in Rhenish lignite area

- **First stage of RWE Neuland 1 Solar Farm feeding green electricity into the grid**
- **37,000 solar modules to supply 5,370 households**
- **Extension already under construction; further plant in planning**

Essen, 3 July 2024

The first stage of RWE's fifth solar farm [in an opencast mine](#) in the Rhenish mining area has been completed. Only weeks after the [RWE Neuland Solar Farm](#) in the Hambach opencast mine was commissioned, the first approximately 36,700 solar modules of the neighbouring RWE Neuland 1 Solar Farm have started to feed green electricity into the grid. The first stage of the new photovoltaic plant has a capacity of 20 MW peak (17.6 MWac) and can supply the equivalent of around 5,370 households with climate-friendly electricity. An extension of 15.2 MWp (12 MWac) is already under construction.

The two large photovoltaic plants RWE Neuland Solar Farm and RWE Neuland 1 Solar Farm, currently with close to 50,000 installed solar modules, are located at the foot of the Sophienhöhe hill near the future shore of the planned Hambach Lake. Until the lake is completely filled with water, the area can be used for producing solar electricity for many years. A further solar farm at the western edge of the opencast mine, north of Niederzier, is already in planning.

The neighbouring towns and municipalities are also to benefit from the plants. A collaboration agreement with Neuland Hambach GmbH which represents the interests of the six municipalities located next to the opencast mine – Elsdorf, Jülich, Kerpen, Merzenich, Niederzier and Titz – has already been signed.

Green growth in the home market

RWE has more than 20 years of experience in developing, constructing and operating renewable energy plants. In its home market of Germany, the company operates onshore wind and solar farms with a total installed capacity of around 700 megawatts. RWE is looking for locations across 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.

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

Photovoltaic plants at the Hambach opencast mine

“RWE Neuland Solarpark” photovoltaic plant (in operation)	12 MWp	8.4 MWac
“RWE Neuland Solarpark” battery storage system (in operation)	4.1 MW	8.1 MWh
“RWE Neuland 1 Solarpark” photovoltaic plant (in operation) – 1st construction phase	20 MWp	17.6 MWac
“RWE Neuland 1 Solarpark” photovoltaic plant (under construction) – 2nd construction phase	15.2 MWp	12 MWac
PV Hambach Niederzier (in planning)	14.2 MWp	12.3 MWac

Photovoltaic plants at the Garzweiler opencast mine (in operation)

Garzweiler photovoltaic plant	19.4 MWp	12 MWac
Garzweiler battery storage system	6.5 MW	13 MWh
Jackerath photovoltaic plant	12.1 MWp	8 MWac
Jackerath battery storage system	4.1 MW	8.1 MWh
Agri-PV demonstration plant	3.2 MWp	2.5 MWac

Bedburg photovoltaic plant (under construction)	20 MWp	15.7 MWac
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“RWE indeland Solar Farm” at the Inden opencast mine (in operation)

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

NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH

The structural change in the region is a multi-dimensional puzzle. Climate-protection, renaturation and infrastructure aspects as well as economic and social perspectives all come into play. NEULAND HAMBACH GmbH represents the common interests of the six neighbouring municipalities of Elsdorf, Jülich, Kerpen, Merzenich, Niederzier and Titz. The development company pools knowledge, manages projects and devises future uses for the 8,500 hectares making up Hambach opencast mine and its surroundings. Its objective is to create a liveable and sustainable post-mining landscape for the current and future generations of people living in the region – to meet and exceed the expectations of all. <https://www.neuland-hambach.de/>

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

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