

Renewables-forward responses to the current energy crisis

Key takeaways:

- Santa Marta is an opportunity for governments to entrench renewables-based pathways for energy security, and coordinate a managed and just transition away from fossil fuels.
- In response to the US-Israel war on Iran and the resulting energy crisis, OECD and non-OECD countries have taken major, tangible steps to boost renewables, grids, electrification, and energy storage investment.
- This briefing highlights these examples, as well as some post-COP30 examples from before the current crisis, that show that the shift away from fossil fuel dependence is taking shape not only as a response to the current crisis, but also as a medium- to long-term strategy for greater resilience and security.

These countries are expediting grids and system integration measures:

Spain [has introduced measures](#) to speed up grid access and connection, strengthen system planning, support storage and demand management, and promote self-consumption and energy communities. (20 March)

Poland has [announced](#) 1 trillion zł in energy investment over the next decade, including 220 bn zł for renewables and storage and 234 bn zł for distribution. (18 March)

Portugal [approved measures](#) to speed up renewables, simplify permitting, and expand self-consumption and energy communities. (10 April)

Canada has [announced](#) \$28.9 million for renewable energy and smart grid innovation projects. (27 March)

Japan [expanded](#) offshore wind permitting into its EEZ. (19 March)

The United Arab Emirates [moved forward with a \\$1.9](#) billion Abu Dhabi solar and storage project. (24 March)

The Philippines is [requiring](#) new renewable energy projects above 10 MW to integrate storage systems. (30 March)

These governments are increasing renewable deployment, procurement and enabling policies:

India is [accelerating clearances](#) for wind power plants and battery energy storage systems. (30 March)

Vingroup has [proposed](#) replacing an LNG plant with renewables in Vietnam, while the government has [updated](#) its JETP implementation plan, which projects renewables at 47% of installed capacity by 2030. (25 March)

South Korea has announced plans to [almost triple operational renewable capacity](#) from 37 GW to 100 GW by 2030. (7 April)

Austria [put forward](#) the EABG Act to accelerate permitting for renewables and related infrastructure. (26 March)

Brazil opened consultations on its plan which includes [107 GW of solar](#) by 2035. (16 February)

Chile [approved](#) a package worth over \$1 billion for three renewable energy projects. (30 March)

Egypt [signed multiple renewable PPAs](#) and a standalone battery storage deal with a combined capacity of 5,620 MW. (19 March)

Germany [released](#) a €8 billion climate package including a tender for an additional **12 GW** of onshore wind. (25 March)

Thailand [introduced the UGT2 green tariff programme](#) enabling businesses to access renewable electricity. (20 March)

Türkiye [reaffirmed](#) a target of 120 GW of solar and wind by 2035, backed by around \$80 billion in investment. (22 March)

These countries are prioritising electrification:

France [doubled electrification aid](#), while EDF [announced](#) a €240 million programme to support the shift to electric heating, heat pumps, EVs and electric heavy goods vehicles. (10 April)

The United Kingdom has [announced plans](#) to decarbonise future housing through heat pumps and solar. (24 March)

Indonesia set out plans to [promote renewable energy in transport](#), including solar EVs. (25 November 2025)

Spain [extended tax incentives](#) for investments in EVs and charging infrastructure. (21 March)

These countries show how prior clean energy action can help insulate from price shocks:

Spain has [doubled its wind and solar capacity since 2019](#) and has some of the lowest electricity prices in Europe throughout the Iran war energy crisis.

Pakistan's solar boom [has avoided](#) GBP 12 billion in fossil fuel imports and is predicted to save at least \$6.3 billion this year.

The EU's solar fleet saved around €3.77 billion in avoided gas imports during March according to an estimate by [Solarpower Europe](#).

Australia: [prior investment in renewables and battery storage](#) is helping cut electricity prices by reducing wholesale costs and volatility.

Appendix

Country	Measure / response	URL(s)
Philippines	<p>30 Mar: The government highlighted 250 MW of solar plus 450 MWh of battery storage as an energy-security measure.</p> <p>26 Mar: The government suspended spot power sales and said the system would prioritise renewable energy and conserve critical fuel inventories.</p>	<p>https://pia.gov.ph/press-release/250-mw-solar-450-mwh-battery-storage-boosts-power-supply-strengthens-energy-independence/</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/philippines-suspends-electricity-market-due-middle-east-conflict-2026-03-26/</p>

Spain	<p>29 Mar: High renewable energy production and low demand helped drive electricity prices to historic lows.</p> <p>24 Mar: Royal Decree-Law 7/2026 introduced urgent measures on permitting, planning, storage, demand management, self-consumption and energy communities.</p>	<p>https://www.elpais.com/economia/2026-03-29/el-precio-de-la-luz-marca-minimos-historicos.html</p> <p>https://www.osborneclarke.com/insights/royal-decree-law-72026-new-regulatory-and-fiscal-framework-energy-spain</p>
Poland	<p>18 Mar: Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced a PLN 1 trillion energy investment plan over the next decade, including PLN 220bn for renewables and storage, PLN 234bn for distribution, and PLN 160bn for nuclear.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/premier-bezpieczenstwo-i-energia-sa-nierozlaczne</p>
Canada	<p>27 Mar: Canada announced C\$28.9 million for clean-energy innovation projects, including support for renewable energy demonstration and smart-grid projects.</p>	<p>https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2026/03/backgrounder-canada-invests-in-energy-innovation-to-become-a-clean-energy-superpower.html</p>
Japan	<p>19 Mar: Japan's amended offshore wind framework was set out ahead of its 1 April 2026 entry into force, expanding permitting into the EEZ through a two-stage process.</p>	<p>https://law.asia/japan-offshore-wind-gx-ets/</p>
UAE	<p>24 Mar: A \$1.9 billion Abu Dhabi solar-plus-storage project moved forward, supporting grid stability and renewable capacity growth.</p>	<p>https://solarquarter.com/2026/03/24/powerchina-secures-1-9-billion-solar-and-storage-project-in-abu-dhabi/</p>
India	<p>30 Mar: India accelerated clearances for wind power plants and battery energy storage systems amid gas supply disruptions.</p> <p>29 Jan: India's 50 GW annual renewable procurement trajectory remained in place as a core enabling measure.</p>	<p>https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/india-boosts-renewable-push-amid-gas-supply-disruptions-minister-says-2026-03-30/</p> <p>https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2220087&lang=1&reg=6</p>

Vietnam	<p>31 Mar: Vingroup proposed replacing an LNG plant with a hybrid renewables-plus-battery project.</p> <p>25 Mar: The government updated the JETP implementation plan, projecting renewables at about 47% of installed power capacity by 2030.</p>	<p>https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/vingroup-proposes-scrapping-lng-powered-plant-plan-renewables-amid-iran-war-2026-03-31/ ;</p> <p>https://en.mae.gov.vn/viet-nam-updates-plan-for-the-jetp-declaration-9226.htm</p>
South Korea	<p>8 Apr: South Korea announced plans to almost triple operational renewable capacity from 37 GW to 100 GW by 2030.</p>	<p>https://www.pv-tech.org/south-korea-almost-triple-renewable-energy-capacity-100gw-2030/</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/16/south-korea-solar-power-renewables-revolution</p>
Austria	<p>26 Mar: Austria advanced the Renewable Energy Expansion Acceleration Act.</p> <p>23 Mar: Construction began on an 85 MW / 170 MWh battery project to support renewable grid integration.</p>	<p>https://www.energyagency.at/en/aktuelles/eabg-regierungsvoelage</p> <p>https://renewablesnow.com/news/ngen-breaks-ground-on-85-mw-battery-storage-system-in-austria-1291823/</p>
Portugal	<p>20 Mar: Portugal approved measures for energy-crisis situations, consumer protection and promoting renewables.</p> <p>19 Mar: Reuters reported the package, including crisis tools tied to electricity prices.</p>	<p>https://www.portugal.gov.pt/en/gc25/communication/news-item?i=measures-for-energy-crises-situation-approved</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/portugal-approves-electricity-price-caps-case-energy-crisis-2026-03-19/</p>
Chile	<p>1 Apr: Chilean ministries approved three renewable energy projects worth more than \$1 billion.</p>	<p>https://www.sea.gob.cl/en/noticias/comite-de-ministros-confirma-resolucion-favorable-de-3-proyectos-de-energia-renovable-y</p>

Egypt	<p>18 Mar: Egypt signed a package of renewable energy and storage agreements.</p> <p>19 Mar: Reporting detailed the package at 5.6 GW across solar, wind and batteries.</p>	<p>https://sis.gov.eg/en/media-center/news/pm-witnesses-signing-of-renewable-energy-power-purchase-agreements-package/</p> <p>https://renewablesnow.com/news/egypt-signs-ppas-for-5-6-gw-of-solar-wind-and-batteries-1291657/</p>
Brazil	<p>16 Feb: Brazil opened consultation on its PDE 2035 energy plan, which projects 107 GW of solar by 2035.</p>	<p>https://www.pv-magazine.com/2026/02/16/brazil-targets-107-gw-of-solar-by-2035-under-energy-plan/</p>
Türkiye	<p>23 Mar: Türkiye's solar capacity update reiterated the target of 120 GW of solar and wind by 2035.</p> <p>14 Mar: Anadolu reported that the target was backed by around \$80 billion in investment.</p>	<p>https://www.aa.com.tr/en/greenline/green-economy/turkiyes-installed-solar-power-capacity-surpasses-25-000-megawatts/1829568</p> <p>https://www.aa.com.tr/en/energy/general/turkiyes-120-gw-solar-and-wind-target-aligns-with-security-driven-energy-innovation/55526</p>
Thailand	<p>31 Mar: Thailand's UGT2 green tariff programme enabled businesses to access renewable electricity.</p> <p>20 Mar: Coverage described the programme launch as a corporate renewable-access measure.</p>	<p>https://ugt-thai.com/</p> <p>https://solarquarter.com/2026/03/20/thailand-launches-ugt2-program-to-boost-corporate-access-to-renewable-energy/</p>
Germany	<p>25 Mar: Germany unveiled an €8 billion climate package including a tender for an additional 12 GW of onshore wind.</p>	<p>https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/germany-unveils-climate-plan-cut-emissions-fossil-fuels-2026-03-25/</p>
UK	<p>24 Mar: The government announced plug-in solar, solar on new homes and discounted-power measures framed as going faster on clean energy. 15 Mar: The government set out an accelerated package and confirmed the AR8 auction would be brought forward.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-make-plug-in-solar-available-within-months</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-go-further-and-faster-in-becoming-energy-secure</p>

Indonesia	<p>31 Mar: President Prabowo linked energy security directly to a 100 GW solar push and faster EV uptake.</p> <p>18 Mar: The tracker's broader transition framing aligns with the IETO 2026 context on transport electrification and system transition.</p>	<p>https://www.thejakartapost.com/business/2026/03/31/prabowo-pledges-100-gw-solar-energy-target-within-three-years.html</p> <p>https://iesr.or.id/en/pustaka/indonesia-energy-transition-outlook-2026</p>
Ireland	<p>1 Apr: Minister O'Brien said faster renewables deployment, grid investment and retrofitting are essential to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.</p> <p>24 Mar: The government announced measures to reduce energy costs, alongside the same broader framing.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/press-releases/statement-from-minister-obrien-following-todays-meeting-of-eu-energy-ministers/</p> <p>https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-the-aoiseach/press-releases/government-announces-measures-to-reduce-energy-costs/</p>
Pakistan	<p>1 Apr: Analysis said prior solar growth had already reduced vulnerability to the shock.</p> <p>13 Mar: Reuters reported that Pakistan's solar boom was cushioning the energy shock.</p>	<p>https://energytracker.asia/solar-power-shields-pakistan-from-the-hormuz-energy-crisis/</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistans-solar-boom-cushions-mideast-energy-shock-2026-03-13/</p>
European Union	<p>1 Apr: SolarPower Europe estimated the EU's existing solar fleet saved €3.77 billion in avoided gas imports in March.</p> <p>19 Mar: EU leaders said the energy transition remains the most effective strategy to strengthen resilience, lower prices and deliver clean, homegrown energy.</p>	<p>https://www.solarpowereurope.org/press-releases/new-research-solar-power-saving-europe-more-than-110-million-a-day-since-middle-east-conflict-began</p> <p>https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2026/03/19/</p>
Australia	<p>19 Mar Prior investment in renewables and battery storage is helping bring down electricity prices by reducing wholesale costs and reliance on expensive gas generation. “</p>	<p>https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-03-19/power-prices-fall-but-relief-could-be-short-due-to-iran-war/106461930</p>

France	<p>10 Apr: France said it would double state support to €10 billion per year through 2030 to help shift from oil and gas to electricity.</p> <p>8 Apr: EDF announced a €240 million electrification programme to support electric heating, heat pumps, EVs and electric heavy goods vehicles.</p>	<p>https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/france-double-state-support-increase-use-electricity-energy-source-2026-04-10/</p> <p>https://www.edf.fr/en/the-edf-group/dedicated-sections/journalists/all-press-releases/for-its-80th-anniversary-edf-is-deploying-eu240-million-to-concretely-accelerate-electrification-in-france</p>
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