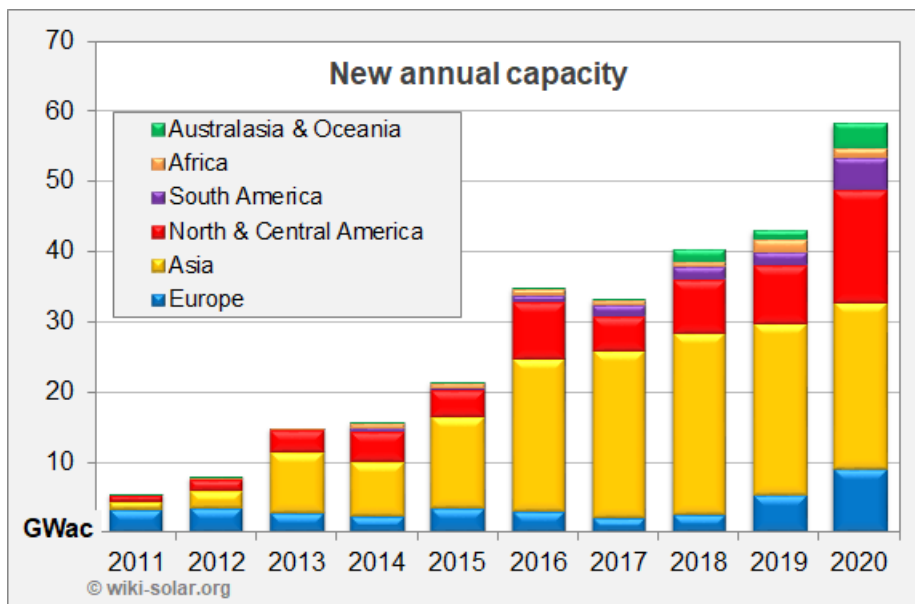


## Utility-scale solar surges to yet another record year

Solar power plants notched up another record year according to preliminary figures released today by utility-scale experts Wiki-Solar. New installations in 2020 comfortably topped 50 GW<sub>AC</sub>, well ahead of the 43-GW record achieved the previous year. Global cumulative installed capacity is now close to 280 GW<sub>AC</sub>.



Annual new utility-scale solar capacity by continent

North America was a major contributor to this growth, while Europe, South America and Australasia also posted large gains. “Something made America great again! It almost doubled its previous record from 2016” says Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe. “We are still awaiting final figures from China, so can’t be sure whether the USA moved back to top country.”

Europe too recorded strong growth, thanks to unsubsidised projects in Spain and elsewhere, 160% above the peak it achieved in 2015. Meanwhile South America doubled its previous record – set in 2018 – as did Australia. The only continents which seemed to show little or no growth were Africa and Asia, though final figures may change that.

“We publish the official annual figures around March, when most of the final data is in, and will give national statistics then. We can highlight regional hotspots too”, says Wolfe. “Texas and Florida, for example, were notable laggards just a couple of years ago but have now burst onto the stage.”

The resurgence of the US market owes much to the installation of commercial projects built to satisfy the growing corporate demand for clean energy. The Big Tech FAANG companies have been prominent buyers of solar electricity, alongside many others.

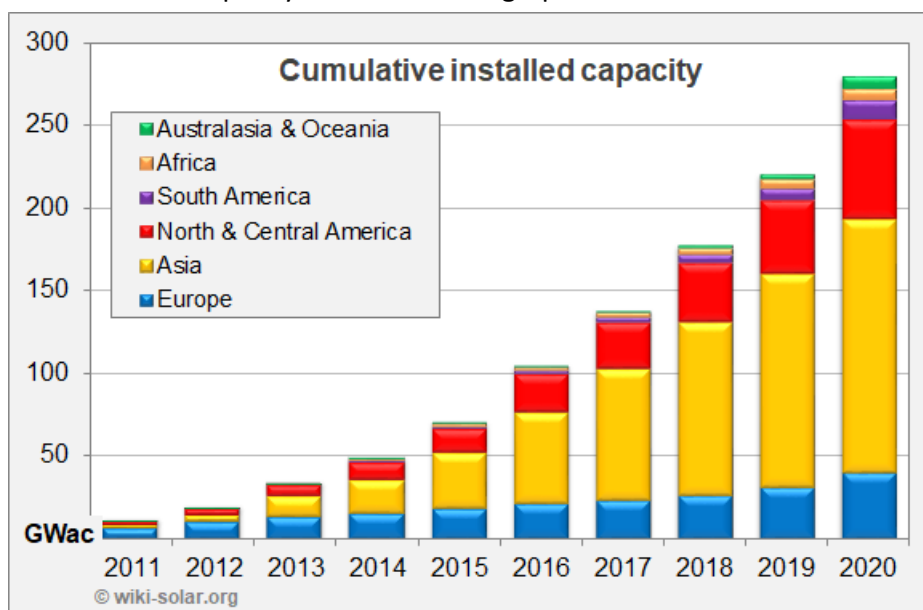
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**Notes for editors:**



Continued/-

- [1] This release on the utility-scale solar market is available here:  
[http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/210112\\_Utility-scale\\_notches\\_up\\_another\\_record\\_year.pdf](http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/210112_Utility-scale_notches_up_another_record_year.pdf)
- [2] Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale solar’ as 4 MW<sub>AC</sub> and above (≈5MW<sub>P</sub> for PV; ≈ electricity for 1,500 households in Europe) see: <http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>.
- [3] ‘Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market’ was [published](#) in 2012.
- [4] Wiki-Solar is the leading authority on utility-scale solar with a database covering over 14,000 utility-scale solar projects, of which about three-quarters are operational. All figures are based on the AC export rating of operational plants. Projects under development are excluded until they have been commissioned.
- [5] Cumulative installed capacity is shown in this graph:



Cumulative total installed capacity by continent

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