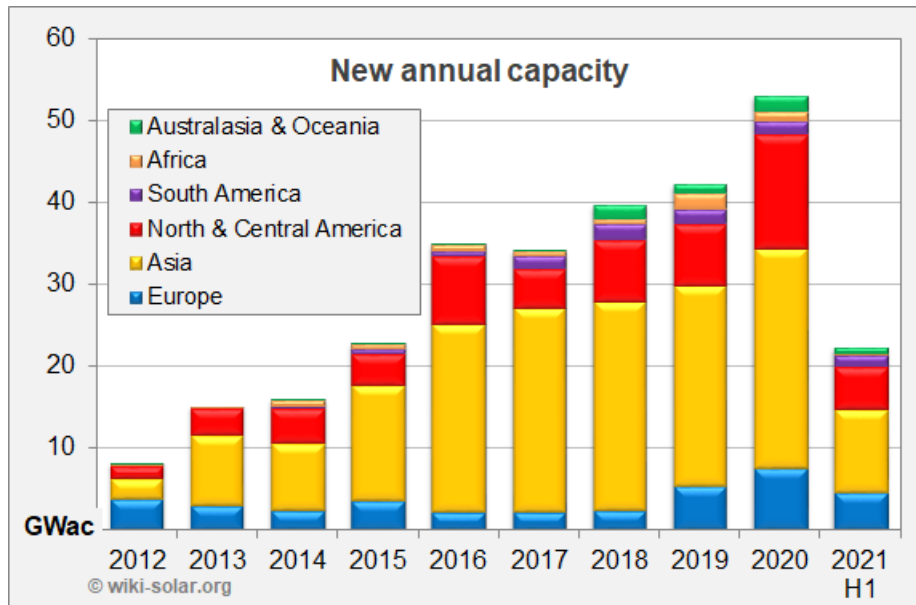


## Utility-scale solar tops 300 gigawatts

Global installations of utility-scale solar power plants have broken through 300-GW<sub>AC</sub> thanks to 22-GW of new capacity in the first half of 2021.

Most regions delivered continuing growth in the first six months, with the exception of Asia. China's new capacity at little over 3-GW remained well short of the heights it achieved five years ago, and fell substantially behind both India and the USA.



New utility-scale solar capacity by year and continent in GW<sub>AC</sub>

Whether 2021 will prove to be the fifth consecutive year of record growth is “too close to call”, says Wiki-Solar. Resurgent growth from Australia, Spain, Chile and France – underpinned by the strong performance in the USA and India – may be enough to compensate for China's doldrums. Wiki-Solar is projecting a total for the year close to 60-GW, just above the 53 required for a new record.

“Unsubsidised projects are now enabling Europe to make a meaningful contribution after several lean years”, says Wiki-Solar's Philip Wolfe. “It is also encouraging to see South America ramping up, and Australia becoming a prominent player.”

TEXT ENDS

### Notes for editors:

- [1] This release on the utility-scale solar market is available here: [210909 Utility-scale solar tops 300GW.pdf](#)
- [2] Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale solar’ as 4 MW<sub>AC</sub> and above ( $\approx 5\text{MW}_P$  for PV;  $\approx$  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] All figures are based on the AC export rating of operational plants. Projects under development are excluded until they have been commissioned.

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