Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy EUROPE

ENERGYCITIES

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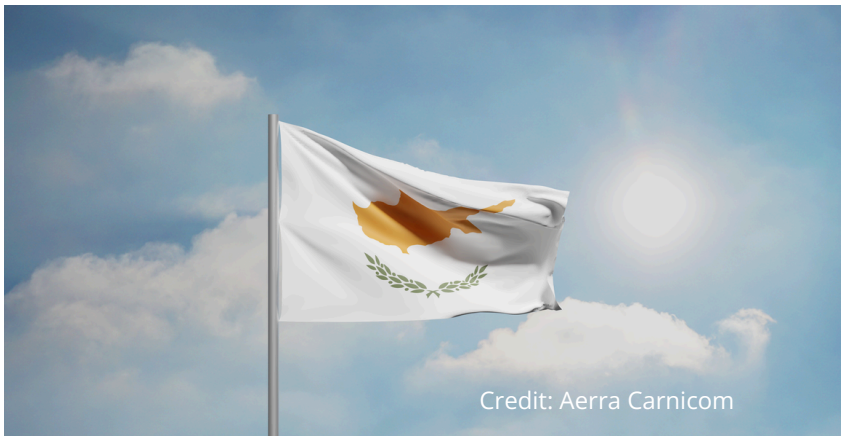
When prices rise, the lights stay steady

Aradippou: Powering municipal electricity and lighting with 100% renewables

Aradippou is one good example of how a municipality can achieve energy independence for street and public lighting by producing its own energy. It shows how public leadership and EU funding can unlock large-scale solar deployment while generating local economic and social benefits.


Credit: Aerra Carnicom

Aradippou| Cyprus 23,000 inhabitants
Readiness level: Operational
Energy sector: ☑ Electricity **Type of plant(s):** ☑ Solar PV
Energy activity: ☑ Production
Key partners: - Municipal departments - National authorities
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The challenge

Like many local councils in Cyprus, Aradippou depended heavily on imported fossil fuels and faced rising energy costs while being located in one of the sunniest European countries. There was limited national experience with large-scale renewable deployment at municipal level.

To have lower and more predictable energy costs, the city designed and implemented a strategy that would make it self-sufficient for its own energy consumption in street and public building lighting.

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The local solution


Credit: Aradippou Municipality

Aradippou invested in large-scale photovoltaic parks to cover its electricity demand. In 2025, a first 2.96 MW solar park was developed, enabling renewable energy coverage for lighting in streets and public buildings. It was installed on a 47.000 sqm land owned by the national government.

In May 2026, the construction of an additional new solar farm worth more than €4 million has been announced. It will produce 3.61 MW of energy and cost an estimated total of €4.25m. It is planned to finance it entirely from the municipality's own resources.

The projects are part of a broader Smart City strategy, combining energy production, grid integration and urban development.

Role of the municipality and partners

The municipality led the initiative: a dedicated team secured land, coordinated financing, and ensured implementation.

Knowledge support from Energy Cities and combined funding played a key role for this EUR 3.2 million investment. It was co-financed via THALIA 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy Programme, with the city contributing with 20% of the cost. External academic and technical partners supported planning and execution.


Credit: Kirill Makarov

Implementation insights: how it was grown in practice

The journey took around seven years from concept to implementation. The municipality first built internal capacity, then developed pilot projects by providing soft loans for the installation of photovoltaics in private homes and then scaled up renewable production.

The 4,7 ha land in Ayios Fanourios on which the solar park was built is government-owned and leased to the municipality. Other key steps included designing financing models and aligning with EU funding programmes. This first solar park was operational within a 15-month period.

Credit: An. Antoniou CC BY-SA 3.0 wikimedia

What changed in practice?

Aradippou achieved 100% renewable electricity for municipal needs. This translates into stable, predictable costs and **reduced costs of around €700,000 per year.** Since then, the municipality is **reinvesting the savings into social and energy projects**.

While a municipality still fully dependent on grid electricity sees its energy bill rise proportionally with each energy crisis, Aradippou is **now partly shielded from these price increases - thanks to its own locally produced solar energy**.

What was harder than expected

- Limited local experience required strong external support.
- Scaling up from pilot to full deployment required significant coordination and investment.
- Ensuring long-term financial sustainability was another challenge.

Conditions to grow something similar in your place!

- **Committed political leadership** is necessary for both the strategic vision and the implementation.
- **Invest time in good governance**, including with national authorities: it can help secure access to resources such as land and funding
- **Combine internal upskilling with external technical support** to bridges local expertise gaps.
- **Think beyond the first installation:** A successful project can become the financial and political foundation for larger investments

> Aradippou Smart City

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