



# Renewable energy investment factsheet:

## Zimbabwe

### 1. Macroeconomic profile

Population	~16.9 million (2025)
GDP growth	5.3% (2023)
Historic GDP growth	~5.3% annual average (2010-2023)
Projected GDP growth	~6.5% (2025 projection)
GDP per capita	\$2153 (2023)
Fiscal deficit	~1.3% of GDP (2024)
Unemployment rate	14.481% (2023)
Ease of doing business rank	140 (2020)

### Major macroeconomic plans

Zimbabwe's **Vision 2030** is a strategic blueprint aimed at transforming the country into an **upper-middle-income economy by 2030**. This vision is guided by five key pillars, supported by factors such as strong governance, economic stability, infrastructure development, and social progress. The plan prioritizes **inclusive economic growth, improved quality of life, and sustainable development**. The pillars are:

- **Economic growth and prosperity:** Driving sustainable economic expansion through increased productivity, industrialization, and investment, with a focus on job creation and wealth distribution.
- **Human development:** Ensuring access to **quality education, healthcare, and social protection**, building a skilled and productive workforce.
- **Agricultural transformation:** Modernizing agriculture to enhance **food security, climate resilience, and commercial viability**, positioning Zimbabwe as a key agricultural hub.
- **Urbanization and infrastructure:** Encouraging **sustainable urban growth**, expanding housing, transport, energy, and digital infrastructure to support economic activities.



- **Accountable and effective governance:** Strengthening governance structures, transparency, rule of law, and public service delivery to support national development goals.

Vision 2030 aligns with **regional and global development frameworks**, including the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **African Union's Agenda 2063**. The strategy emphasizes leveraging Zimbabwe's **natural resources, human capital, and strategic geographic location** to drive economic transformation.

## Key Economic Transformation Goals

Indicator	2020 baseline	2030 target	Expected impact
<b>GDP per capita (USD)</b>	1 440 (2019)	5 000+	Transition to upper-middle-income status by 2030.
<b>Life expectancy (years)</b>	60	65+	Improved healthcare and overall quality of life.
<b>Poverty rate (%)</b>	62.5 (2012)	< 25	Reduced poverty and better living standards.
<b>Employment rate (%)</b>		80%	Increased job opportunities, particularly for youth.
<b>Industry GDP share (%)</b>	19 (2019)	30	Strengthened industrial base, value-added exports.
<b>Access to electricity (%)</b>	52.2 (2017)	72+	Expanded energy infrastructure and reliability.
<b>Access to clean water (%)</b>	81 (2017)	100	Universal access to safe drinking water, improving health.



## 2. Energy profile

<b>Installed capacity</b>	~1 500 MW (total on-grid generation capacity as of 2023)
<b>Renewable energy share</b>	43% of total electricity generation
<b>Hydropower</b>	40% of total installed capacity
<b>Wind energy</b>	Wind speeds above 7 m/s at 100-meter hub height in southwest and central areas (potential under assessment)
<b>Solar energy</b>	High solar potential with irradiation exceeding 2 000 kWh/m <sup>2</sup> in many areas of the country
<b>Electricity access</b>	50% of households have access to electricity (2023)
<b>Urban electricity access</b>	89% (2022)
<b>Rural electricity access</b>	33.70% (2022)

## Energy transition and green industry development plans

Plan/strategy	Objective	Targets
<b>Universal access to energy (electricity &amp; clean cooking)</b>	Achieve universal electricity access by 2030 and clean cooking by 2050.	Increase rural electrification to 75% and urban electrification to 95% by 2030. Reduce biomass usage for cooking by 75% by 2030.
<b>Renewable energy expansion</b>	Increase the share of renewable energy in Zimbabwe's energy mix.	Target 2 100 MW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, including 1 575 MW of solar, 275 MW of bioenergy, 150 MW of small hydropower, and 100 MW of wind. Reduce transmission and distribution losses from 18% (2020) to 11% (2025).
<b>Grid modernization and expansion</b>	Strengthen and expand the national grid to support renewable energy integration.	Secure funding for ZIZABONA, MOZISA, and other cross-border interconnectors. Expand battery storage solutions and grid flexibility to enable higher penetration of renewables.
<b>Decentralized renewable energy solutions</b>	Promote off-grid and community-based renewable energy projects.	Develop 56 community solar mini grids under the Rural Energy Master Plan (REMP) with 40-180 kW capacity each. Implement solar home systems and institutional microgrids for rural communities.



<b>Green industrialization and critical minerals development</b>	Develop domestic value chains for lithium, platinum, and other transition minerals.	Localize lithium battery production and promote investment in value-added processing of critical minerals. Strengthen policies on beneficiation and local industry participation.
<b>e-mobility and sustainable transport</b>	Support the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and reduce transport emissions.	Increase EV penetration to 17.9% by 2035 (~263 903 EVs). Deploy 11 898 slow chargers and 24 152 fast chargers to support adoption. Expand biofuels production with a target of 20% ethanol blending by 2030.
<b>climate-smart agriculture</b>	Enhance energy access for sustainable farming practices.	Develop 10 new climate-proofed irrigation schemes and promote solar-powered irrigation to expand irrigated land. Increase deployment of solar dryers, water pumps, and bio-digesters for smallholder farmers.
<b>Green hydrogen development</b>	Explore the potential for green hydrogen production in Zimbabwe.	Conduct feasibility studies for electrolysis-based hydrogen production and integrate hydrogen policies into national energy planning.

## Key renewable energy policies & incentives

	<b>Policy/incentive</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Renewable energy	National Renewable Energy Policy (NREP)	Promote renewable energy investment, target 2 100 MW by 2030
Climate commitments	Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)	Achieve 40% emissions reduction by 2030
Fiscal incentives	Tax and Duty Waivers	Provide tax exemptions and duty waivers for renewable energy projects
Public financing	Zimbabwe Green Fund	Support financing of renewable energy projects and public-private partnerships
Rural electrification	Rural Energy Master Plan (REMP)	Increase rural electricity access to 75% by 2030
Clean cooking	National Clean Cooking Strategy (2024-2030)	Reduce biomass reliance by 75%, promote LPG, ethanol, and biogas
Mining and energy transition	Energy Transition Minerals Development	Promote local lithium processing and ban raw lithium exports
Decentralized energy generation	Net Metering & Feed-In Tariffs	Enable net metering up to 5 MW and rooftop solar incentives
Electric mobility	National Electric Mobility Policy	Achieve 17.9% EV penetration, deploy 36 050 chargers by 2035
Agriculture & energy efficiency	Climate-Smart Agriculture Initiative	Deploy solar-powered irrigation, storage, and biogas digesters



## Major strategies and incentives targeting renewable energy investments

- Standardizing PPAs to improve project bankability.
- Expanding solar mini grids for rural electrification, targeting 56 projects.
- Developed Clean Cooking Strategy to cut biomass use by 75% by 2030.
- Established Zimbabwe Green Fund to finance renewable energy projects.
- Net metering allows up to 5 MW renewable power grid feed.
- Preparing Policies promote local lithium processing, banning raw lithium exports.
- NDCs target 2 100 MW renewable capacity by 2030, including solar, wind.
- Investing in grid modernization, cross-border projects like ZIZABONA, MOZISA.
- Electric Mobility Policy aims for 17.9% EVs, 36 050 chargers by 2035.

## Energy sector bottlenecks to be addressed

Bottleneck	Impact	Government efforts (ongoing)
<b>Aging and unreliable grid infrastructure</b>	High <b>transmission and distribution losses</b> , frequent power outages, and inadequate investment in infrastructure expansion.	Upgrading grid infrastructure, securing funding for ZIZABONA and MOZISA interconnectors, and reducing losses from 18% (2020) to 11% (2025).
<b>Limited private sector participation in energy</b>	Delays renewable energy investment, limiting industrial and commercial energy supply.	Encouraging IPPs to directly supply energy to corporate buyers, revising Independent Power Producer (IPP) regulations, and promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).
<b>High costs and limited financing for renewable energy projects</b>	Slows adoption of <b>solar, wind, and bioenergy</b> due to high capital costs.	Establishing the Zimbabwe Green Fund, promoting Results-Based Financing (RBF), and facilitating access to carbon credit financing.
<b>Climate vulnerability of hydropower</b>	Droughts and seasonal variability threaten <b>hydropower generation</b> , affecting energy security.	Diversifying energy sources by expanding solar, wind, and battery storage solutions.
<b>Limited investment in energy transition minerals</b>	Despite <b>vast lithium reserves</b> , most raw lithium is exported without value addition.	Banning raw lithium exports, mandating local processing, and positioning Zimbabwe in the EV and battery supply chain.
<b>Weak e-mobility adoption and charging infrastructure</b>	The transition to <b>electric vehicles (EVs)</b> is slow, with limited charging stations.	Implementing the National Electric Mobility Policy, aiming for 263 903 EVs by 2035 and deploying 11 898 slow chargers.

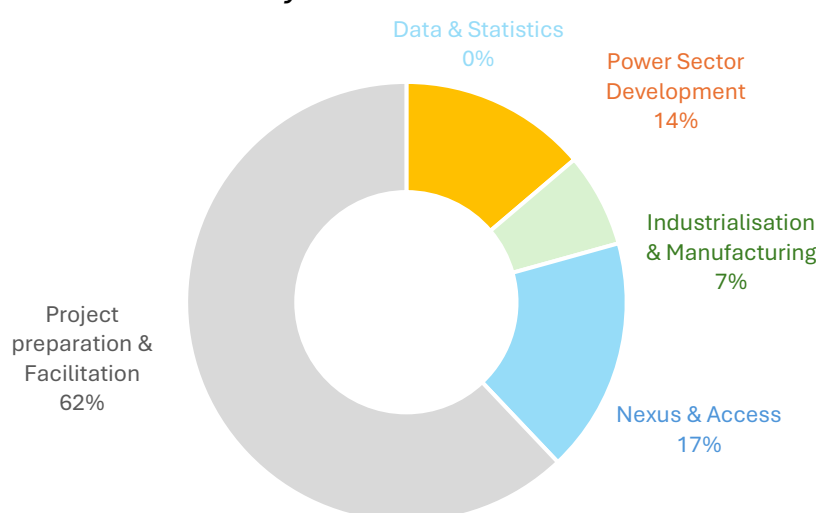


### 3. Country engagement

Zimbabwe's engagement, initiated through consultations from **24-26 January 2024**, examined the country's energy transition priorities and regulatory landscape, identifying strategies to overcome access and reliability challenges. National stakeholders and international partners collaborated on defining a country action plan for accelerated renewable integration. The action plan outlines measures to modernize the grid, strengthen investment frameworks, and enhance industrial energy security through the deployment of clean energy solutions.

*Number of actions: 29*

#### *Distribution of actions by thematic area*



### 4. Investment prospects

Zimbabwe is a prime destination for renewable energy and green industry investments, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable growth. The country aims for near universal electrification by 2030 while expanding renewable energy capacity to 2 100 MW. To accelerate this transition, the government is investing in solar, hydro, and off-grid solutions, including rural mini-grids, while modernizing the grid to cut energy losses from 18% to 11% by 2025.

In addition, to attract private sector participation, Zimbabwe offers tax incentives, duty-free solar imports, and Independent Power Producer (IPP) opportunities. With over \$1 billion secured in investments, the country is leveraging its vast lithium reserves to scale up battery production and support the rapidly growing electric vehicle (EV) market. As a key member of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), Zimbabwe is positioning itself as a regional energy hub with robust policies, a thriving investment climate, and promising returns for investors.