











Let's review the video "Solar Energy in Chile".







• Why is it important to consider solar energy as an alternative to provide electricity?

 What factors affect the production and distribution of electrical energy generated by solar plants, according to what is indicated in the video?



Problem



What would be the best place to locate a solar plant that delivers electricity to Concepción: the Atacama Desert or the surroundings of Concepción?



Problem



What would be the best place to locate a solar plant that delivers electricity to Concepción: the Atacama Desert or the surroundings of Concepción?

What does it take to make the decision?





	Plant in Atacama	Plant in Concepción
Power if the Sun per m ² on the external surface of the atmosphere	1,4 kW	1,4 kW
Percentage of light that is absorbed by humidity before reaching the solar panel	54%	61%
Hours of sunshine per day	12	12
Sunny days per year	349	296
Percentage of light that is lost in the panel in heat and other effects	80%	80%
Percentage of energy lost in transmission cables	9%	0%



	Plant in Atacama	Plant in Concepción	
Power if the Sun per m ² on the external surface of the atmosphere	1,4 kW	1,4 kW	 Inicial amount
Percentage of light that is absorbed by humidity before reaching the solar panel	54%	61%	
Hours of sunshine per day	12	12	
Sunny days per year	349	296	
Percentage of light that is lost in the panel in heat and other effects	80%	80%	
Percentage of energy lost in transmission cables	9%	0%	

	Plant in Atacama	Plant in Concepción
Power if the Sun per m ² on the external surface of the atmosphere	1,4 kW	1,4 kW
Percentage of light that is absorbed by humidity before reaching the solar panel	54%	61%
Hours of sunshine per day	12	12
Sunny days per year	349	296
Percentage of light that is lost in the panel in heat and other effects	80%	80%
Percentage of energy lost in transmission cables	9%	0%



This power is reduced before reaching the solar panel's surface due to the atmosphere's humidity, which varies between Atacama and Concepción.

	Plant in Atacama	Plant in Concepción
Power if the Sun per m ² on the external surface of the atmosphere	1,4 kW	1,4 kW
Percentage of light that is absorbed by humidity before reaching the solar panel	54%	61%
Hours of sunshine per day	12	12
Sunny days per year	349	296
Percentage of light that is lost in the panel in heat and other effects	80%	80%
Percentage of energy lost in transmission cables	9%	0%



Energy is measured in kWh (kilowatt hours), corresponding to the multiplication of power measured in kW by the number of hours.





It is desired to compare the amount of electrical energy that reaches Concepción from each solar plant daily.



	Plant in Atacama	Plant in Concepción
Power if the Sun per m ² on the external surface of the atmosphere	1,4 kW	1,4 kW
Percentage of light that is absorbed by humidity before reaching the solar panel	54%	61%
Hours of sunshine per day	12	12
Sunny days per year	349	296
Percentage of light that is lost in the panel in heat and other effects	80%	80%
Percentage of energy lost in transmission cables	9%	0%

The panels cannot convert all of the energy received into electrical energy since 80% of it is dissipated as thermal energy.



	Plant in Atacama	Plant in Concepción
Power if the Sun per m ² on the external surface of the atmosphere	1,4 kW	1,4 kW
Percentage of light that is absorbed by humidity before reaching the solar panel	54%	61%
Hours of sunshine per day	12	12
Sunny days per year	349	296
Percentage of light that is lost in the panel in heat and other effects	80%	80%
Percentage of energy lost in transmission cables	9%	0%

In the case of the Atacama plant, part of the electrical energy produced is lost when transmitted to Concepción due to the resistance of the cables that carry it.

	Plant in Atacama	Plant in Concepción
Power if the Sun per m ² on the external surface of the atmosphere	1,4 kW	1,4 kW
Percentage of light that is absorbed by humidity before reaching the solar panel	54%	61%
Hours of sunshine per day	12	12
Sunny days per year	349	296
Percentage of light that is lost in the panel in heat and other effects	80%	80%
Percentage of energy lost in transmission cables	9%	0%





Now that we have this data, is it possible to determine which is the most convenient place to locate the solar plant?



Let's work on the following questions:

1. Calculate the power that reaches the solar panel on each plant, considering what is lost due to the humidity of the atmosphere.



1. Calculate the power that reaches the solar panel on each plant, considering what is lost due to the humidity of the atmosphere.

- The sun's power that reaches each Atacama plant solar panel is $1,4 \cdot 0,46 = 0,644$ kW.
- The sun's power that reaches each solar panel at the Concepción plant is $1,4 \cdot 0,39 = 0,546$ kW.



2. One way to measure energy is in kWh (kilowatt hours). If there are 12 hours of sunshine per day on each plant, how much energy reaches the panel daily on a sunny day on each plant?



2. One way to measure energy is in kWh (kilowatt hours). If there are 12 hours of sunshine per day on each plant, how much energy reaches the panel daily on a sunny day on each plant?

- To a solar panel in Atacama, they arrive daily 0,644 · 12 = 7,728 kWh of energy.
- While 0,546 · 12 = 6,552 kWh of energy arrives daily at a solar panel in Concepción.



- 3. How much energy (kWh) reaches a solar panel in a year, considering the number of days with sun on each plant?
 - A solar panel in Atacama annually receives 7,728 · 349 = 2 697,072 kWh of energy.
 - A solar panel in Concepción annually receives 6,552 · 296 = 1 939,392 kWh of energy.



4. How much energy (kWh) reaches a solar panel on average per day in each plant?

- An average of 2 697,072: 365 ≈ 7,389 kWh of energy reaches a solar panel in Atacama per day.
- An average of 1 939,392: 365 ≈ 5,313 kWh of energy reaches a solar panel in Concepción per day.



5. Of the average daily amount of energy that reaches the panel calculated in the previous question, how much does it arrive as electrical energy to Concepción from each plant?



5. Of the average daily amount of energy that reaches the panel calculated in the previous question, how much does it arrive as electrical energy to Concepción from each plant?

Considering heat loss and other effects:

- A solar panel in Atacama produces 7,389 · 0,2 = 1,478 kWh of electrical energy daily.
- A solar panel in Concepción produces 5,313 · 0,2 = 1,063 kWh of electrical energy daily.



5. Of the average daily amount of energy that reaches the panel calculated in the previous question, how much does it arrive as electrical energy to Concepción from each plant?

Considering the energy loss in the cables:

- A solar panel in Atacama can transmit to Concepción 1,478 · 0,91 = 1,344 kWh of electrical energy per day.
- A solar panel in Concepción supplies its city with 1,063 kWh of electricity per day.

Conclusions

A solar plant in Atacama can produce more electrical energy than a plant in Concepción. However, the humidity loss in energy production and the transmission loss from Atacama to Concepción makes it necessary **to compare the amount of energy** that reaches this city from each plant.





Conclusions



To obtain the daily amount of electrical energy that can be supplied to Concepción from a solar panel located in Atacama and another in the city of Concepción itself, we had to perform a series of calculations that involved **rational numbers**.

Conclusions



We obtained the best location for the solar plant from the **available information**. Other variables could affect the production and distribution of energy from each of these solar plants.

	Plant in Atacama	Plant in Concepción
Power if the Sun per m ² on the external surface of the atmosphere	1,4 kW	1,4 kW
Percentage of light that is absorbed by humidity before reaching the solar panel	54%	61%
Hours of sunshine per day	12	12
Sunny days per year	349	296
Percentage of light that is lost in the panel in heat and other effects	80%	80%
Percentage of energy lost in transmission cables	9%	0%











