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# chemical plant

Jul 09, 2020

## A Solvay facility in the Netherlands plans to generate its own green energy

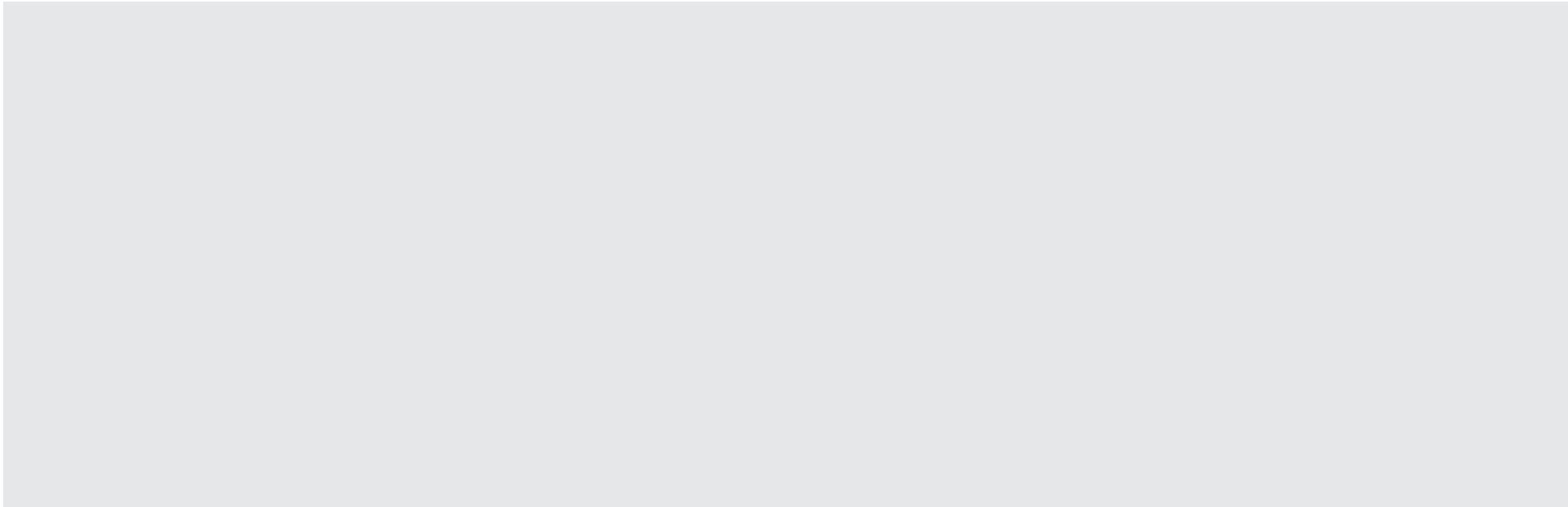
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**One Planet** sustainability roadmap.



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## Environmentally and financially sound electricity supply

Technically, legally and financially, building a solar farm is a complex undertaking requiring skills that don't have much in common with running a chemical plant. "We wanted a partner who would build and operate the solar panels on our land for us, because that's just not our job," says Peter with a smile.

Dutch solar system installer **KiesZon** was selected. The next steps (securing a building permit and subsidies from Dutch authorities and drafting long term contracts for land lease and electricity supply) were successively carried

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Peter admits his team couldn't have done it alone. "We were the ones who initiated the project, but we received support from the Solvay group, its Peroxides Business Unit and the Group's legal and Energy teams, which was crucial because there were 15-year land lease and power supply contracts to write up!"



Installing a solar farm was the perfect solution to take on our environmental responsibility and contribute to reducing Solvay's overall emissions

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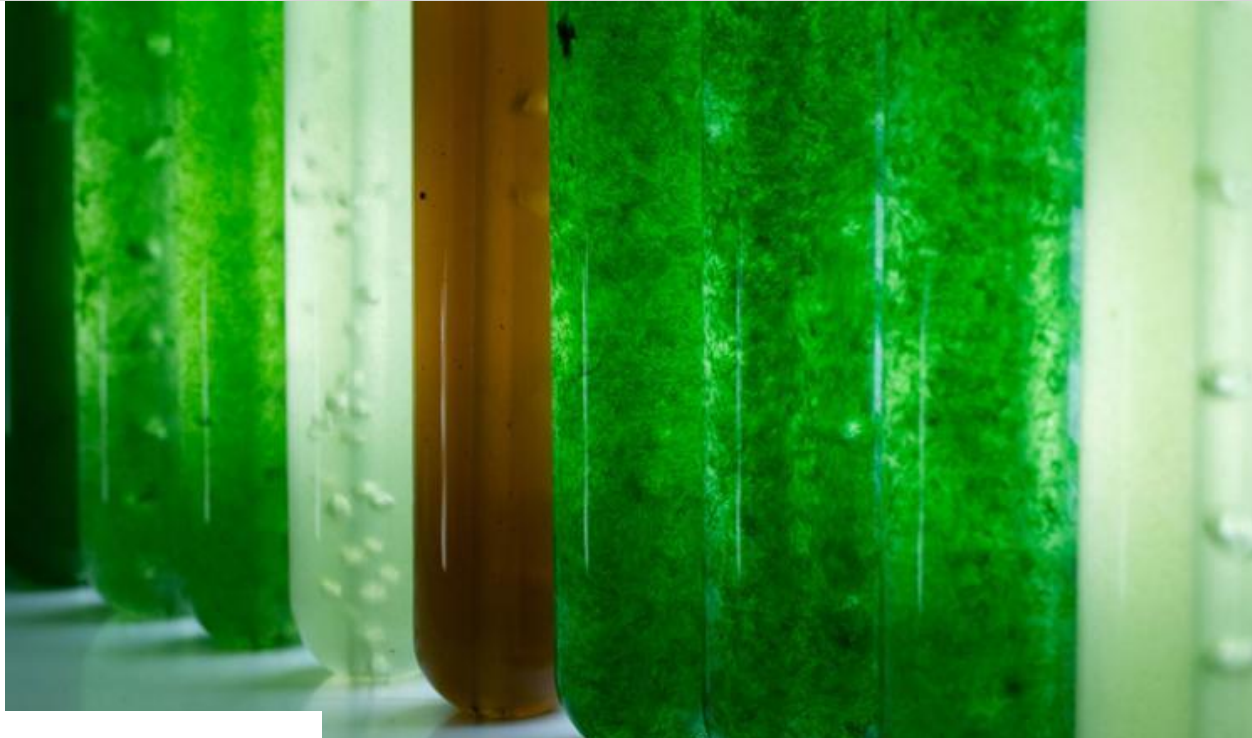


general grid, providing enough electricity to power 1,500 households. The reason for this is that the electricity produced cannot be stored; it has to be absorbed immediately. Yet on a sunny day, the production is simply too high: 33% of the farm is enough to cover 100% of the plant's power needs. Conversely, on cloudy days and at night, production drops, which explains why evened out over a full year, 60% of the facility's power will still have to be purchased from the market.

That being said, new generation solar panels are much more efficient than they used to be, making it worthwhile to build solar farms at latitudes such as that of the Netherlands. In fact, this is Solvay's second solar power project in Europe, the other one being at a **quarry in Walcourt** in neighboring Belgium.

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