

If the Alpine lake becomes a photovoltaic plant

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An **Alpine lake** used to house the first mountain floating solar power system in Switzerland.

This is **Lac des Toules** in the Valais Canton, at 1810 metres in the municipality of Bourg-Saint-Pierre. The project was designed and implemented by the **power company Romande Energie**.

36 blocks of aluminium alloy and high-density polyethylene that support the **photovoltaic** cells, which rise and fall according to the water level, have been placed on the bottom of the water surface.

The plant in the Alpine lake predicts an experimental phase with **two years of verification of the technical and financial feasibility**.

The plant, which is **about 2,240 square metres**, will produce **800,000 kWh of electricity** per year, which is the equivalent of the annual consumption of approximately 220 households. If the results achieved in the first phase of the year will be satisfying, an expansion **to cover one third of the lake** is planned. This will allow the generation of about 23 millions of kWh per year, which is equivalent to the needs of around 6,400 households.

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