



Biden declares US energy emergency

Description

USA: The nation's ability to provide sufficient electricity is under threat, partly because of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the US president says

US President Joe Biden has blamed Russia for a looming crisis in the US, saying his country might not be able to generate enough electricity to meet consumer demand, partly due to the conflict in Ukraine.

Biden declared an [energy emergency](#) on Monday, saying national security and quality of life are jeopardized by potential shortfalls in power supplies. He invoked the Defense Production Act – originally part of an industrial mobilization effort in response to the Korean War – to spur domestic production of solar panels and other forms of “clean” energy to boost power supplies.

“Multiple factors are threatening the ability of the United States to provide sufficient electricity generation to serve expected customer demand,” Biden said in his emergency declaration. “These factors include disruptions of energy markets caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change.”

Increased reliance on renewable energy has been blamed for power outages in such states as California and Texas. Solar and wind power are intermittent, so periods of high demand are not always matched by output. In one extreme example, wind turbines froze up during an historic winter freeze last year in Texas, contributing to blackouts that caused 246 deaths and at least \$195 billion in damage.

Biden's emergency declaration included a two-year exemption from tariffs on solar panels from four Southeast Asian countries. The proposed tariffs had been blamed for delaying major solar projects in the US. About three-quarters of the solar modules installed in the US are imported from Southeast Asia.

The president has blamed Russia for record US fuel prices and a surge in inflation to a 40-year high. He's also attributed a looming global food crisis to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

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