

Cuba's power grid collapses again (+ updates)



Satellite image during the 2022 blackout: Today, the Cuban power grid has once again collapsed (source: [Eric Strating/X](#))

As the electricity supplier Unión Eléctrica [has announced](#), Cuba's power grid collapsed December 4 at 2:08 a.m. local time after the Antonio Guiteras power plant unexpectedly shut down. It is the second nationwide blackout in Cuba within a few weeks that was not caused by a hurricane.

The last reported generation deficit on Tuesday [was 1596 megawatts](#), which is around 50 percent of demand. At levels in this range, the failure of one power plant is enough to take the entire grid down with it.

Work to restore the grid has [begun](#), with so-called microsystems resuming in several provinces to supply local circuits. In doing so, health facilities and water pumps are being prioritized. Energy Minister Vicente de la O'Levy explained that the process would be "slow and gradual" to avoid setbacks. During the last non-hurricane-induced power grid [collapse on October 18](#), it took four days to restore it.

This time, however, the starting point is somewhat better, as the fuel situation is less critical than in October. According to information from the [Reuters](#) news agency, Venezuela has increased its oil supplies from 28,000 to 38,000 barrels per day in November.

As journalist Lázaro Manuel Alonso [reports](#), "work and teaching activities in the country will be suspended" during the period of recovery. Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Marta Elena Feitó announced that only absolutely essential activities will be maintained.

Cuba has been in the throes of a severe energy crisis for several years, and the situation has worsened in recent months. In addition to the lack of fuel, the poor technical condition of

the eight large power plants is also responsible for this, of which the Antonio Guiteras, built in 1988, is the youngest and most efficient.

Update 23:15h: Guiteras is starting up again

As with previous blackouts, air traffic continues as the country's international airports have their own backup systems. This was announced by Transport Minister Eduardo Rodríguez Dávila. According to the minister, all 70 arrivals and departures planned for today (37 of which are in Havana) can be handled. Interprovincial train and bus services will also continue.

The restoration is actually going faster this time than with the last blackouts. In Havana, 257,000 customers currently have electricity again, and in several provinces there are microsystems that already add up to a total output of 533 megawatts. The damaged Antonio Guiteras power plant is expected to start up shortly and resume feeding into the grid by 8 p.m. local time.

Thursday Update 16:40: Power restored

As Energy Minister O'Levy [announced](#) on X, the power grid was restored at 11:14 p.m. local time on Wednesday December 4, after about 22 hours. "All power plants that were in the start-up phase are on the grid, with the exception of Unit 1 at Felton, whose boiler is already running and will be synchronized in the next few hours," the minister wrote. A few minutes later, Unit 1 at Felton was also back on the grid. ([Cubaheute](#))