

Energy crisis in Cuba intensifies: government imposes saving measures



The CTE Felton in Holguín (Source: [ACN/X AI scaled](#))

The energy crisis in Cuba has worsened in recent days. After the failure of a power plant, the supply shortage rose to 1,810 megawatt hours on Thursday, according to the state energy supplier UNE. The government responded on Friday with energy-saving measures.

As the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare [announced](#), non-essential work activities were suspended until Saturday, and classes at schools and universities were canceled. Interurban train and bus services were also reduced for two days.

As a result of the energy-saving measures, UNE expected a lower deficit of 1,335 megawatts for Saturday evening. Nevertheless, there were power outages of up to 20 hours in several parts of the country, such as in the province of Cienfuegos. In Havana, too, the energy supply repeatedly failed. With deficits of over 1,500 megawatts (which corresponds to around 50 percent of demand), there is a risk of a nationwide blackout, as occurred [most recently in October](#) and [December 2024](#).

The immediate cause of the recent worsening of the tense energy situation [was the](#) failure of the Felton power plant in the eastern Cuban province of Holguín due to a “fault in the generator's cooling system”. As the power company announced, the repair will take about 20 days.

Meanwhile, the island is waiting for a new fuel delivery from Russia, which could help ease the situation somewhat. The tanker Akademik Gubkin was loaded with 100,000 tons of crude oil in the Russian city of Ust-Luga on January 29 and is scheduled to be unloaded in the port of Matanzas on February 19. As the Reuters news agency [reports](#), the tanker was placed on a US sanctions list under the Biden administration and is part of the so-called shadow fleet.

Cuba has been struggling with a massive energy crisis for several years. The decline in oil supplies from Venezuela, tougher U.S. sanctions, and a lack of foreign currency have repeatedly led to power outages.

Russian supplies have also been declining for years. According to data from energy analysts, Cuba imported just 100,000 tons of crude oil from Russia last year. In 2023, deliveries were still at 200,000 tons and in 2022 at 600,000 tons. Nevertheless, Russia continues to support Cuba in the energy sector. At the beginning of the year, Moscow granted the island a loan of 60 million US dollars for the purchase of fuel. ([Cubaheute](#))