

Energy crisis: new supplies from China and Russia



Spare parts delivery from China on December 29 (source: [Hua Xin/X](#))

As the Cuban news agency *Prensa Latina* [reports](#), Cuba will receive a new loan from Russia for the purchase of fuel worth 60 million US dollars. According to information from Cuba's ambassador to Moscow, Julio Antonio Garmendía, the loan is to be signed in the coming days.

In addition, Russia apparently wants to donate two million US dollars for the purchase of spare parts for power generation. As early as November 2024, Vladimir Putin's government announced the delivery of 80,000 tons of diesel fuel worth 60 million US dollars as emergency aid in the wake of a nationwide [power outage after Hurricane Rafael](#).

Last March, the Russian president gave the green light to a change in the credit agreements between the two countries in order to restructure Cuba's debt and grant the country more favorable payment terms.

In December, the People's Republic of China donated 69 tons of supplies, including coolers, engines and other equipment for decentralized diesel power plants, of which only 36 percent are currently operational. The air freight arrived at Havana's airport on December 29, with further deliveries to follow. As reported by Cuban media, the donation will enable 38 generators with a capacity of 53 megawatts to be reconnected to the grid. "We thank the Party and Government of China for sending this first installment of a donation that will support our country's work to restore the power system," wrote Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez on X.

Cuba has been experiencing a severe energy and fuel crisis for several years as a result of declining foreign exchange revenues and shrinking supplies from friendly Venezuela, tightened US sanctions, and a lack of maintenance investments in its power plants. The

result is daily power outages lasting several hours. In October and December of last year, the power grid collapsed twice due to the high generation deficit.

The government plans to counteract this in the coming years by massively expanding renewable energies, whose share is to grow from around four percent at present to 37 percent by 2030. By the end of this year, 46 new solar parks with a capacity of 1100 megawatts are to be connected to the grid, with the first 500 megawatts coming online in the first half of the year. ([Cubaheute](#))