Traditional Hydro

A Pelena fact sheet

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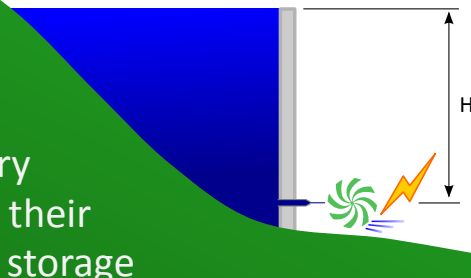
Hydro electricity is generated from the falling of water.

Head is the distance that the water falls.

Flowrate is how much water is falling.

More **head** and more **flowrate** give more **power** from the hydro.

Traditional hydros are usually associated with a dam and reservoir. This usually exists to store water for later use by downstream consumers, such as town water or irrigation. The hydros are only operated when water is released for downstream consumers, or if the reservoir has reached storage capacity and is spilling water. The dam operator's objective to store water can conflict with the wishes of hydro turbine operators that wish to release water to generate electricity. For most sites, the reservoir is not a store of 'hydro energy' because at times of dry weather, the dam operators are even more hesitant to release their increasingly precious water. Traditional hydros focus on water storage and flow rate, so they miss the opportunity to utilise all the head available in the stream.



Evaporation

Hydro-electricity is **solar powered**

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