

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Tonga Island Solar Power Generation for Home Use



Overview

Tonga is making tangible progress toward its renewable energy targets with the rollout of solar-powered mini-grid systems across its outer islands, in a bold move to reduce its dependence on expensive diesel imports and improve electricity access for remote communities. Can Australia help secure Tonga's outer island energy needs?

Australia also has a long history of engagement in relation to helping secure Tonga's outer island energy needs. In the early 2000s, Australia funded the Ha'apai Outer Islands Electrification project (HOIEP), which involved the installation of diesel-powered generators and electrical reticulation on four islands in the Ha'apai group.

How many people have access to electricity in Tonga?

This means that little more than 30,000 people are spread across 35 islands, presenting acute issues in terms of the provision of modern infrastructure. At OIREP commencement, the ADB estimated that 89% of all households across Tonga had access to electricity.

How can oirep help Tonga's remote island communities?

However, significant needs and opportunities exist to further expand renewable energy systems on outer islands. Less tangible, but also important is the role played by OIREP in consolidating Tonga's social contract with remote island dwelling communities, by allowing for enhanced and more reliable access to electricity.

Who commissioned a new mini-grid system in Tonga?

NIUATOPUTAPU, TONGA (26 July 2023) — Tonga's King Tupou IV, government officials, and the people of Niuatoputau community today attended a commissioning ceremony for a new mini-grid generation system and distribution network, funded under the ADB-supported Outer Island Renewable Energy Project.

Why is electricity so expensive in Tonga?

This has contributed to the Tongan economy and electricity consumers being exposed to high and volatile electricity prices due to fluctuations in the price of oil internationally. According to UK-based aggregate website Cable, Tonga's electricity is the 13th most expensive in the world, at an average cost of USD 0.35 per kilowatt hour (kWh).

How many people live in Tonga?

Just 36 of Tonga's islands are inhabited, with more than 70% of the total population residing on just one island - Tongatapu. This means that little more than 30,000 people are spread across 35 islands, presenting acute issues in terms of the provision of modern infrastructure.

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