



**High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council
Implementation Forum
Geneva
3 July 2013**

New Zealand: Promoting renewable energy in the Pacific

New Zealand is working closely with Pacific governments, other donors and with the private sector to promote renewable energy in the Pacific.

Clean, affordable and efficient modern energy services are a cornerstone for sustainable development. Currently, most Pacific Island countries deliver well under ten per cent of their electricity requirements on a renewable basis; and, even though the Pacific has abundant renewable energy resources, including solar, hydro, wind, geothermal and biomass, they have an overriding dependence on diesel generation.

New Zealand is a world leader in the use and development of renewable energy technologies, and is committed to sharing that expertise with its Pacific neighbours.

In March 2013, New Zealand and the European Union hosted a Pacific Energy Summit in Auckland. That three day event brought together donors, governments, and businesses from across the region, with the aim of helping Pacific Island countries to increase access to clean affordable energy and to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

The Summit resulted in donors and development partners committing to a funding envelope of NZ\$635 million (US\$500 million) for more than forty renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Pacific region.

New Zealand itself has committed NZ\$65 million to eighteen projects in six Pacific Island countries. It aims to build on the success of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project which saw a one megawatt project comprising a three solar-based mini-grid constructed on each of Tokelau's main atolls. This world-first took Tokelau from being 100 per cent reliant on expensive, imported diesel to meeting over 90 per cent of its electricity needs from renewables.

Reducing the Pacific's dependence on high priced, imported fossil fuels will save money for Pacific governments, provide greater access to modern energy services for Pacific peoples and businesses, and improve environmental outcomes.

The Pacific Energy Summit reconfirmed both the political will to tackle this renewable energy challenge, and provided the means to do so through donor commitments, accelerating the deployment of renewable energy technologies for the Pacific.

Importantly, the Summit provides a model for how other regions can turn ambitious renewable energy goals into reality through a combination of collaboration, innovative thinking, and technological expertise.

New Zealand is currently planning the resources required to implement the Pacific Energy Summit outcomes, and will provide updates on specific projects at the next Pacific Islands Forum in the Marshall Islands in September 2013.

For more information on the Pacific Energy Summit visit: www.aid.govt.nz



Energy Investment Showcase during the Pacific Energy Summit 2013 at the Viaduct Events Centre in Auckland. Credit Brendon O'Hagan



This large solar photovoltaic/diesel hybrid mini-grid system, installed on Fakaofa, one of the three atolls that make up Tokelau, delivers over 90% of the atoll's electricity needs from renewable sources.

Credit: New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



New battery house and solar panels, Nukunono Atoll, Tokelau.

Credit: New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.