



FACTSHEET

Off-grid renewable energy in the Pacific

Supporting clean, affordable and sustainable access to off-grid renewable energy in remote communities in the Pacific

Context

Significant progress has been made in Pacific island countries to increase access to electricity. However, in 2020 there were still over 3.7 million people without access to electricity in the region. People without access to electricity mostly live in remote communities in rural areas of larger Pacific islands or on smaller outer islands which are often vast distances from urban infrastructure.

The Pacific is highly vulnerable to climate impacts – with climate being the region’s number one security concern. Pacific countries often lack access to affordable infrastructure and technology to mitigate the impacts of climate change and risk being left behind in the global transition to renewable energy and climate resilience.

About the program

As part of Australia’s commitment to climate action, the Australian Government announced the establishment of the *Pacific Climate Infrastructure Financing Partnership* (PCIFP), to be implemented through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP).

The PCIFP will expand AIFFP’s climate investments through a competitive grant program for small-scale, community-based and off-grid renewable energy projects across the Pacific. The program will seek to leverage additional resources and work closely with Pacific governments, regional organisations and civil society to deliver the most appropriate, sustainable and useful solutions for isolated communities.

Supporting small-scale, community and off-grid climate action in the Pacific will increase the region’s energy security and support its electrification and renewable energy targets. Importantly, access to energy can mean lighting for education and health care, refrigeration for improved food security, charging stations for mobile connectivity and desalination for reliable drinking water.

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3.7 million people in the Pacific have no access to electricity



74% of the Pacific population lives in rural and remote areas



How to get involved

The program is seeking to consult and work closely with Australian clean energy businesses, private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders to partner with Pacific countries on appropriate, sustainable renewable energy technology that delivers development benefits to rural and remote parts of the Pacific.

Through a Calls for Proposals process, we will be seeking views on the best way to partner with key stakeholders.

The program will be looking to:

- 1. Work with local communities and civil society** to deliver small-scale off-grid renewable energy in remote or rural areas of the Pacific
- 2. Co-invest with partners** to ensure long-lasting, sustainable, practical energy access for remote Pacific communities
- 3. Bring the best technology and renewable energy solutions to the Pacific**, drawing on the experience of the sector’s off-grid renewable energy solutions in rural and remote parts of Australia.

Guidelines for new partners to apply for grant financing will be available in Q4, 2023 following a consultation process.