



Community microgrids fiji

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Details were released on 75 sites to serve isolated communities in Fiji that lack access to reliable and affordable electricity, with plans to construct hybrid solar PV mini-grids through an estimated \$60M USD in capital investment. The resulting mini-grids will support residential energy needs, public services, productive uses of energy, and community expansion to power new homes and small businesses.

The scope of effort for these 75 locations included in-person site assessments, power system design, geospatial site planning, business model review, and climate change impact assessments.

Public tenders will be prepared for public bid for mini-grid construction, operation, and maintenance. The structure of these tenders will be open for public comment through a Request for Information (RFI). Community engagement through a cooperative model is anticipated.

This work is supported by the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and consortium partners including Arizona State University (ASU), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Xendee Corporation, the Community Energy Toolkit (COMET), the Government of Fiji Department of Energy, the Government of Fiji Ministry of Finance, Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

About 75 communities that lack access to reliable and affordable electricity in isolated areas will be able to benefit from a \$1.5 million grant provided by the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).

The 75 communities have been identified to be recipients of the mini-grid rural electrification program which is in line with reaching Fiji's dual goals of 100 per cent rural electrification and renewable power generation by 2030.

While delivering her opening remarks on Wednesday, US Ambassador to Fiji Marie Damour said support from the United States, Government of Fiji along with public and private sector partners, would create market opportunities for investors in clean energy and support affordable energy access for rural communities.

"This initiative represents the beginning of a larger transition for Fiji and for the entire blue Pacific region and the government of the United States are proud to be part of this," she said.

Finance Ministry permanent secretary Shiri Gounder said they were confident that USTDA's feasibility study, together with the consortium's contributions would bring successful outcomes and clean, sustainable growth.

"So far the city has managed to connect almost 96 per cent of our population and there is a small



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community of four per cent that is in very isolated areas,” Mr Gounder said.

“This kind of support from development partners that is critical for us to not only increase the electrical connections but move towards clean energy.”

The grant was awarded to the Ministry of Finance in which they selected Arizona State University’s (ASU), Laboratory for Energy And Power Solutions (LEAPS), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and XENDEE Corporation to carry out the study.

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