

ELECTRIFYING REMOTE OUTER ISLAND HOUSEHOLDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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Abstract

The Republic of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) Outer Islands Solar Electrification Programme is Government-owned and operated through the Ministry of Resources and Development (R&D). The operation and maintenance of this programme is carried out by the Marshalls Energy Company (MEC) under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Government (R&D) and MEC.

The existing outer island electrification programme for the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) currently features solar PV systems for households and public facilities such as schools and health centres. Hardware for the existing 3000 solar PV systems has been provided for by numerous donors funding such as the European Union, United States of America, Taiwan and other development partners. Under the R&D and MEC MOU a monthly fee, determined by the Government, is charged to the users of the solar PV systems.



Global Sustainable Energy Solutions Pty Ltd (GSES) was contracted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) through the European Union funded North-REP (North Pacific ACP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project) to undertake a review of the RMI Outer Islands Solar Electrification Programme. The review was to: identify sustainability issues /challenges of the outer islands' electrification programmes; develop user-pay mechanism(s) to address off-grid renewable energy systems for outer islands electrification; develop an appropriate tariff structure, tariff collection and management system for the outer islands electrification programme; develop a funding mechanism to sustain the outer island electrification programmes; and, conduct a training needs assessment and develop a modality of training for outer island technicians, public utilities, final users and other required personnel to sustain such programmes. This presentation will discuss the findings including recommendations to address the challenges to the RMI outer islands electrification programme.