



# Energy storage for renewable energy papua new guinea

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In the early 2000s, less than 10 percent of PNG's population had access to electricity. In recent years, the PNG government announced an ambitious target to accelerate progress - 70 percent of its people will have access to reliable electricity by 2030. Turning on the lights in homes and businesses will undoubtedly improve living standards and drive economic growth across the country.

With wind, water, geothermal resources, and an abundance of sunshine, PNG is ideally positioned to become a leader in renewable energy. A recent study by the International Finance Corporation highlighted the enormous potential for wind power in PNG. There are multiple locations in and around Port Moresby and coastal villages of PNG with wind speeds over 10 meters-per-second.

Small-scale solar and hydropower generation equipment, telecommunications systems including the internet, and refrigeration that can be applied at the town and village level represent opportunities for U.S. firms. Through the USAID PNG Electrification Project (PEP) there are opportunities for U.S. businesses to supply small scale solar products and equipment into the PNG market. Several PNG provincial governments also seek to deliver affordable solar and hydro energy to their constituents.

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Goroka, 14 July 2020 - Papua New Guinea has set an aspiration to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2050. To achieve this, it must encourage community participation in off-grid and energy efficient solutions.

Efforts to invest in renewable energy will improve community livelihoods while offering the country an alternative to yesterday's fossil fuel technologies. With only approx. 15 per cent of the population having access to reliable electricity and more than 70 per cent of people living in rural areas, the majority of Papua New Guineans have limited or no access to energy.

This week, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) and the University of Papua New Guinea's Centre of Renewable Energy will demonstrate the use of such technologies through a series of workshops in Eastern Highlands Province. The workshops will among other topics, present guidance on proposal writing, drafting policies, planning and overseeing the implementation of renewable energy projects.



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The workshops bring together Provincial and District officials, community representatives, non-government organizations and private sector stakeholders to discuss investment plans and opportunities for communities to access renewable energy options. These discussions also mark the commencement of preparations for two mini-hydropower projects scheduled for Miruma village, Daulo District and Gotomi village, Lufa District.

This initiative comes under the UNDP's Facilitating Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Applications for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (FREAGER) project, which is demonstrating the use of community mini-grids using hydro and solar resources for electricity generation to improve livelihoods in rural areas.

Dirk Wagener, UNDP Resident Representative in reiterating UNDP's support said, "Papua New Guinea has huge potential in renewable energy, and we need to invest through creative and innovative approaches. This initiative will support rural communities access to cheap, clean and sustainable sources of renewable energy including solar and hydro." Mr Wagener added.

The training in Eastern Highlands Province is supported by the Provincial Government, Daulo and Lufa District Development Authorities, the national Government, UNDP and the Global Environment Facility.

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