
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

The progress being made is measured relative to the government's objectives of:

- Conversion of 50% for the Islands of the group to renewable energy sources by 2015.
- Conversion of the Cook Islands in total to renewable energy sources by 2020.

2015 Target

Currently the objective is to be achieved by the building of renewable energy power plants in the six islands of the Northern Group.

The project is in the final stages of negotiation and has completion scheduled for September 2014.

Measures

The projects have produced measurable results. For example, expenditure on fuel for diesel generation is lower by in excess of \$1million annually.

In the 2014 calendar year projects, which are planned, will provide for an additional 10% of power needs in Rarotonga to be generated from renewable energy.

Fuel used in generation will reduce by a further \$1million.

2020 Target

Progress on this objective is taking place in three areas:

1. The design and implementation proposals for the Southern Group are being prepared by the ADB with implementation to commence following on from the Northern Group.
2. The conversion of Rarotonga power generation is being undertaken using Te Aponga Uira (the Utility) as an implementing agent. A total of 1300kW is programmed to be built in 2014. Of this 1000 kW is donor funded.
3. The arrangements for connection and dispatch of private sector generation onto the Rarotonga grid are being implemented and an estimated 300kW is projected to be connected in 2014.

The total electricity use is dropping with the effective implementation of conservation and efficiency projects – both by customers and Te Aponga Uira.

Reductions are continuing on a cumulative basis of 5% per year. In total generation has reduced by 13% since 2011/2012.