

Could Tonga pioneer wave power technology in the Pacific?

Tonga could pioneer the use of wave power technology in the Pacific. (Supplied: SPTO) Power prices are affecting communities around the world and in the small island nation of Tonga -- home to just over 100,000 people -- they are feeling the pinch. "I think it's way too high."

How much does electricity cost in Tonga?

According to UK-based aggregate website Cable, Tonga's electricity is the 13th most expensive in the world, at an average cost of US35 cents (52 cents) per kilowatt hour (kWh). The research, released in late 2021, analysed 230 countries and found Oceania was the most expensive region in the world, with an average of US30 cents per kWh.

What's new in Tonga?

The Kingdom of Tonga has now come up with a bold new plan. In March, it signed a memorandum of understanding with an Irish-based wave energy company called Seabased to develop a 10-megawatt wave power park off the main island of Tongatapu. Albert Vaea (far right) says he wants renewables to bring "meaningful relief" to vulnerable Tongans.

How is energy collected in Tonga?

"There's a host of different ways to collect the energy, but the one in Tonga will be a point source absorber and it will sit in the water and move up and down as the wave passes over the top," he said. "Inside it is a generator that will spin and create electricity."

How will Tonga's New Energy Park work?

The project will be delivered in two phases -- the first will begin later this year and will be a two-megawatt park, which will generate enough power for close to 3,000 homes. Once the entire 10-megawatt project is complete, it is expected to provide half of Tonga's energy and cut emissions by 20 per cent.

Are power prices too high in Tonga?

Power prices are affecting communities around the world and in the small island nation of Tonga -- home to just over 100,000 people -- they are feeling the pinch. "I think it's way too high. Very high in comparison with current salary ranges here in Tonga at the moment," Tonga resident Mapa Taumalolo said.

Our transition from diesel generation to renewable energy is our progress towards achieving a sustainable power source for the Kingdom for generations to come. Our current electricity generation method heavily relies on imported fossil fuels ...

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With a distinct advantage in its clean technology energy market, Tonga aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and achieve greater energy autonomy. The country possesses abundant solar, wind, and geothermal resources, positioning it as a potential leader in ...

Tonga Power Limited (TPL) signed the power purchase agreement with Sunergise New Zealand Limited (Sunergise), which will finance, build, and operate the 6-megawatt solar farm on Tongatapu and sell the electricity generated to TPL for 25 years.

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Tonga Power Limited is currently undertaking renewable energy projects, network upgrade projects aswell as Battery Energy Storage projects which all contribute to ensuring Tonga Power provides power that is sustainable, reliable and safe for the people of Tonga. Learn more about our projects plans and progress by clicking the links below.

Kameli, Vava"u Tonga (14th March 2023) -- Tonga Power Limited (TPL) has commissioned a new solar and battery energy storage system in Vava"u, Tonga, with the financial support of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Asian Development Bank, Government of Australia and inkind contribution from Government of Tonga and Tonga Power Limited. The system ...

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As the world transitions from fossil fuels to cleaner and safer energy sources, Tonga is at the forefront of the movement in the Pacific. PCREEE and TNQAB are collaborating on a groundbreaking initiative with the Pacific Community's (SPC) Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) to develop a regional qualification on E-mobility.

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