



Press Release

Biogas Installation Launch at Matevulu College in Vanuatu

Thursday 30 June 2022

With an aim to transition from diesel-generated electricity to about 100% renewable energy for electricity production in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Vanuatu government launched the installation of a biogas system in Matevulu College in Santos Island on June 30th, 2022.

In conjunction with the Vanuatu Ministry of Climate Change, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub through its implementing partner SPREP and the Irish Government supported the scale up of this off-grid project that utilizes [organic](#) waste such as green waste and food scraps to generate biogas, hence decreasing the reliance on firewood and fuel for cooking, along with greenhouse emissions.

Speaking at the launch yesterday, Vanuatu's Acting Minister for Climate Change, Meteorology, Geo Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management Honourable Johnny Koanapo said setting up of the Bio-Gas projects has been a milestone achievement in helping the nation reduce its Green House Gas emissions at the national level.

"Benefits of this Biogas project are twofold with ripple effects – while reducing Green House Gas emissions, the project is also addressing the issue of waste management at Matevulu College; on a capacity building level, over 700 students studying at Matevulu College will witness the positive impacts of shifting to renewable energy firsthand," Koanapo said.

"This is an impact that cannot directly be quantified, but is one that I trust, will go a long way, in educating the people of Vanuatu about the possibilities of shifting to renewable energy, reducing Green House Gas emissions, saving much needed funds, and contributing to achieving the ambitious targets set out in the government's long term energy goals."

Koanapo thanked the efforts by the development partners in supporting the line ministries in implementing the Green House Gas reduction initiative in direct collaboration with the Matevulu College School and Administration.

"The importance of renewable energy is far from being limited by climate change considerations, during the last decade climate change has become a major driver for the integration of renewables into national energy supply systems. Given the urgency of the problem, it is essential that this process will continue," he added.

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub Technical Advisor Vanda Fa'asoa-Chan Ting said that the efforts of the Matevulu College and Saint Patric's College including the Vanuatu Department of Climate Change and installation consultants, the Innovative Aquaculture is to be commended.

"This project serves many purposes – not only does it provide the perfect example to students on how waste can be converted into clean energy, but it also demonstrates to students simple ways that they can employ to look after the environment and take care of it because not only do biogas systems break down decayed organic matter within closed systems in the absence

of oxygen, but they also give off naturally organic fertilizers which can be used to revitalize soil health for vegetable gardens and crops,” Fa’asoa Chan Ting said.

Vanuatu has a sector specific target of transitioning to close to 100% renewable energy in the electricity sector by 2030. Goal is to reduce Business as Usual (BAU) emissions in the electricity sub-sector by 100% and in the energy sector as a whole by 30%.

Vanuatu submitted their Intended nationally determined contributions (INDC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat on the 29th of September 2015. No further revisions were undertaken, and the same document was endorsed and submitted as the First nationally determined contributions on 21st September 2016.

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub is administered by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and implemented in partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Pacific Community – SPC, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

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About the Regional Pacific NDC Hub

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub carries out activities based on specific country requests from member Pacific Islands and these activities are implemented by the four partners of the Hub. These are the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (lead partner), Pacific Community (SPC), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Background

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are national climate change mitigation plans which highlight country’s climate actions through climate related targets, policies and projects. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, countries are required to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs in contribution to global climate action.

The Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Hub arose as a response to calls from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) for a regional platform to support them in implementing, enhancing and financing their NDCs. The NDC Hub was officially launched by the Prime Minister of Fiji and COP23 President Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama in 2017 in Bonn, Germany. The Pacific NDC Hub works with its 14 member countries and these are: The Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub is administered by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and implemented through the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in contribution to NDC Partnership.