



**Tonga National Energy Awareness Week**  
Tano'a International Dateline Hotel, 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
**Theme: Building a Sustainable Energy Future for Tonga**

**Concept Note**

**1.0 Background**

The Tonga Energy Awareness Week is an initiative of the Department of Energy under the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), in collaboration with key stakeholders in the energy sector. The event aims to raise national awareness on energy-related issues, promote the adoption of sustainable energy practices, and highlight the progress and challenges in Tonga's transition toward a cleaner and more resilient energy future, as well as signal potential opportunities.

As Tonga works to achieve its national targets under the Tonga Energy Road Map 2021 - 2035 (TERMPLUS) and fulfil its international commitments on climate change and sustainable development, the energy awareness program plays a vital role in mobilizing collective action. This year's event comes at a critical time as policies on electric vehicles and rural electrification are being introduced, and efforts to increase renewable energy (RE) investments and infrastructure are scaling up.

The Energy Awareness Week also offers a valuable platform for stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, utility providers, private sector actors, and the general public to engage in an open dialogue and share knowledge. It emphasizes the importance of inclusive energy planning and the role of private sector in creating a more energy-secure Tonga.

**2.0 Objectives**

- To recognize the overall progress of the energy sector in Tonga and celebrate achievements in energy related projects;
- To engage the private sector in open discussions on energy issues and educate potential investors and developers about project opportunities;
- To highlight and increase understanding of the role of RE, energy efficiency (EE) and e-mobility in Tonga's development goals;
- Create a platform where the RE developers, project investors, financiers, policy makers and regulators come together to discuss the way forward to accelerate investments in the Energy sector.

**3.0 Expected Outcomes**

- Stronger engagement between public and private sectors on energy issues.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of the role of RE, EE and E-mobility in Tonga's development.
- Recognition of outstanding energy-related projects and initiatives.
- Identified possible Technical Assistance and Investment and development opportunities in sustainable energy projects.

#### 4.0 Target Audience

The Awareness Program will be an opportunity for the stakeholders of the Sector to share their Energy related initiatives for the whole country to witness.

Project developers and investors will be participating and meet in a forum and discuss the energy priority projects to achieve the Tonga NDC 3.0, TERMPLUS, and other energy policies. The Private Sector will be invited together with Government Ministries, Donors and Development Partners and Corporations affiliated with the Energy Sector.

#### 5.0 Activities

The awareness program will be a TERMPLUS Update program anticipated to start review of the Energy Sector policy. As this is the review year for the TERMPLUS (i.e. Tonga's national energy policy), the Department of Energy will share the overall progress of the energy sector in Tonga.

With the two day program, each day will be allocated to the main components of the Energy Sector, as follows;

##### 5.1 Day 1: Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

- a. **Opening of the Tonga National Awareness Week**
- b. **Sector Milestones**
  - i. TERMPLUS progress, targets, priorities, gaps, capacity buildings, etc
  - ii. Achievements and Challenges
- c. **Tonga Sustainable Energy Investment Forum**
  - i. Tonga's Energy and Climate Landscape
  - ii. Sustainable Energy Investment Opportunities

##### 5.2 Day 2: Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

- a. **Tonga Electric Vehicle (EV) Promotion**
- b. **Field trip – RE sites (Solar farm, Wind farm, Solar water pumps, etc)**
- c. **Networking Reception**

#### 6.0 Partners

- Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- Pacific Community's Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)
- MEIDECC
- Tonga Power Limited
- Tonga Energy Commission
- Ministry of Public Enterprises (MPE)
- Development partners – DFAT, MFAT, ADB, World Bank, EU, UNDP, UNEP, SIDS DOCK, GEF etc.

## 7.0 Annexes

### Annex 1: Awareness Week Program

**Tonga National Energy Awareness Week**  
Tano’a International Dateline Hotel, 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Draft Program

**Day 1: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Official Opening, Energy Investment Forum**

| TIME               | TOPICS   | PRESENTER  | FACILITATOR                            |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| 08:30              | Registration   |  | Emeline Laumanu,<br>Director of Energy |
| 09:00-09:30        | Opening Prayer   | TBC  |  |
|                    | Welcome Remarks  | <b>Lord Fakafanua,</b><br>Prime Minister and<br>Minister for MEIDECC                         |  |
|                    | Remarks from the Pacific Community   | <b>Mr. Alifeleti Soakai,</b><br>Acting Regional Director -<br>Polynesia<br>Pacific Community |  |
|                    | Remarks from the NZ High Commissioner  | <b>NZ High Commissioner</b>  |  |
|                    | Remarks from SIDS DOCK   |  |  |
| <b>0930 – 10am</b> | <b>Group photo &amp; Morning tea</b>   |  |  |
| <b>SESSION 1</b>   | <b>Tonga’s Energy Landscape</b>  |  |  |
| 10am – 10:30am     | TERMPLUS Update<br><br>* Legislative Regulatory Framework to support Sustainable Energy Investments<br>* Tonga Rural Electrification Policy<br>QA – 15mins | <b>Sione ‘Akau’ola,</b><br>CEO MEIDECC   | Department of Energy                   |
| 10:30- 11am        | Achieving Tonga’s TERMPLUS target:<br>- Update on major ON-Grid and Network Upgrade Projects.<br><br>QA – 15mins   | <b>Scott Westbury,</b><br>CEO, Tonga Power Ltd   |  |
| 11am- 11:30        | -Tonga Energy Act 2021 progress to date with the Energy Transition – challenges and opportunities  | <b>‘Emeline Laumanu,</b><br>Director of Energy   |  |

|                      |  |   |  |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| 11:30 – 12PM         | Brief update on the “Overview of Proposed Staged Fuel Control Framework”<br><br>QA – 15mins  | <b>Lano Fonua, GGGI</b><br><b>‘Emeline Laumanu,</b><br>Director of Energy   |  |
| 12pm –12:30pm        | Update on Rural Electrification Projects (off-grid projects) – achievements and way forwards | <b>Kipola So’otanga,</b> Energy Specialist - Head of RE division  |  |
| 12:30pm – 13:00pm    | Update on Gender programs/initiatives in the Tonga Energy Sector                             | <b>Lilika Fusimalohi,</b> Senior Gender Program Specialist consultant, Pacific Women In Power program, the World Bank |  |
| <b>13:00 – 14:00</b> | <b>Lunch</b>   |   |  |
| <b>SESSION 2</b>     | <b>Sustainable Energy Investment Opportunities</b>   |   |  |
| 14:00 – 14:15        | TERMPLUS Investment Plan   | <b>GGGI – CFAN advisor</b>  | <b>Lano Fonua,</b><br>Senior Program Officer & Climate Finance Advisor |
| 14:15 – 16:00        | Round-table discussions with donors – to be facilitated by Lano Fonua                        |   |  |
| 16:00 – 16:30        | Wrap up and Closing  |   |  |



**Day 2: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Tonga EV Promotion**

| TIME          | TOPICS /Activities   | PRESENTER    | FACILITATOR |
|---------------|--|--------------|-------------|
| 08:30         | <b>Registration</b>  |              |             |
| 09:00         | <b>Opening Prayer</b>  |              |             |
|               | <b>Welcome and Opening Keynote Address</b><br>Mr. Sione 'Akau'ola, CEO, MEIDECC  |              |             |
| 0930 – 10:00  | <b>Session 1: Decarbonizing of Land Transport Sector in Tonga</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief overview of land transport component (EV related targets and initiatives etc) in NDC 3.0, TERMPlus and TEEMP</li> <li>Tonga EV Roadmap/Policy Framework and policy direction.</li> <li>Update on EV projects - existing, current/on-going and in pipeline initiatives.</li> <li>Q and A (15mins)</li> </ul> | DoE Director | PCREEE      |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | <b>MORNING TEA</b>   |              |             |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | <b>Session 2: Pacific Regional EV Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress to date, experiences - opportunities and challenges</li> </ul> <b>Q and A (15mins)</b>  | PCREEE       | DoE         |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <b>Session 3: Success stories – Voices from Early EV adopters /owners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taniela Vaitohi</li> <li>Danny Hamala</li> <li>Lupe Matoto</li> </ul> <b>QA session: 15mins</b>   | EV owners    | PCREEE/GGGI |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | <b>LUNCH</b>   |              |             |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | <b>Session 4: Exhibition Viewing</b><br>EV owners can display and demonstration their EVs at the venue and will provide an opportunity for the participants to view (and ride).<br><br>Field trips to RE sites in Tongatapu – solar farm, wind farm, solar water pumps, etc  |              |             |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | <b>Afternoon Tea</b>   |              |             |
| 15:00 – 17:00 | <b>Session 5: Site Visits</b><br>Field trips to RE sites in Tongatapu – solar farm, wind farm, solar water pumps, etc  |              |             |
| 18:00         | <b>Networking &amp; Reception</b>  |              |             |



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