

# Kiribati Sustainable Energy Transition Capacity Building Week

*Minimum Energy Performance Standards and Labelling (MEPSL)  
– Lessons learnt and case studies from other Pacific Island  
Countries, 18 June 2024*

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# Outline

1. Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) - Background
2. Pacific Appliance Labelling and Standards (PALS) phase 1 background
3. Experiences and lessons learnt from other Countries

# The PCREEE

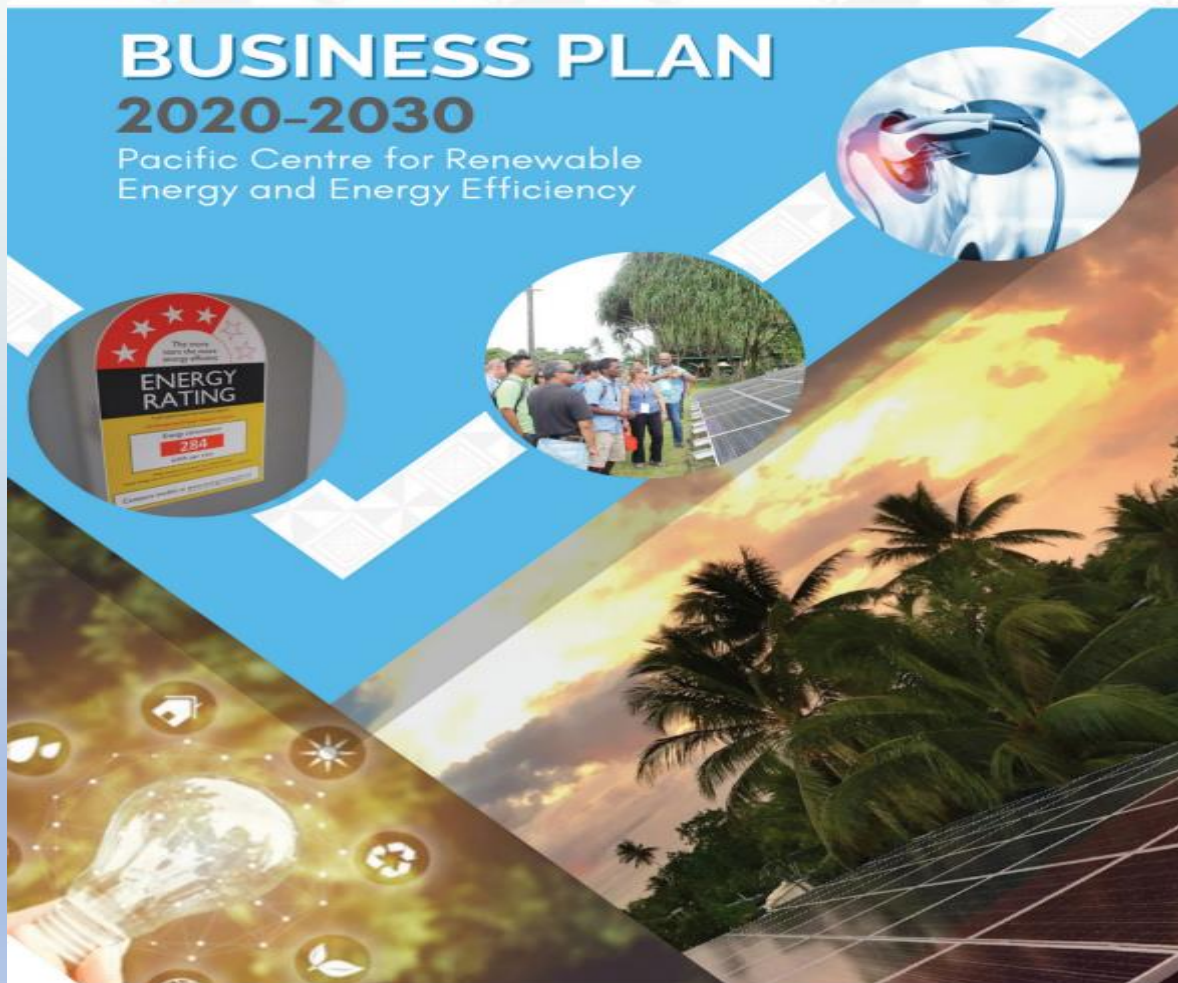
- Going 8 years now
- Part of a global network comprising 11 regional centres
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Operational Phase: 2021-2025
- UNIDO, Austria, Norway & NZ funding support
- Part and parcel of SPC and the GEP of the GEM Division



# BUSINESS PLAN

## 2020-2030

Pacific Centre for Renewable  
Energy and Energy Efficiency

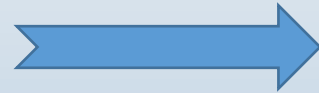


## Four (4) Strategic Areas

1. Programme 1. RE&EE Business Start-Up and Entrepreneurship Support
2. Programme 2. RE&EE for Sustainable Mobility
3. Programme 3. RE Mini-grids
4. Programme 4. Energy Efficiency Investment

## Key Areas of Support to PICs

1. Programme 1. RE&EE Business Start-Up and Entrepreneurship Support
2. Programme 2. RE&EE for Sustainable Mobility
3. Programme 3. RE Mini-grids
4. Programme 4. Energy Efficiency Investment



1. Capacity Buildings Program
2. Energy Policy Development – (incl. guidelines /standards)
3. Energy Forum, Awareness
4. Development/review of Concept Note and Project Proposal.

## background -Pacific Appliance Labelling Standards (PALS) program phase 1

- Need for introducing appliance energy efficiency measures in the Pacific Region was realized at the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in September 2011
- AUD 3million was granted from the Australian Government to fund PALS project phase 1 – [2012 – 2019]
- 10 PICs were included in phase 1:

PIC	Status of Energy legislation	Status of MEPSL	Refrigerators and freezers	Air conditioners	Lighting	Other
Cook Is	Draft	Draft	Covered(a)	Covered(a)		
Fiji	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Televisions(a)
Kiribati	Enacted	Endorsed IN 2024	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	
Niue	Starting	Starting	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	
PNG	Starting	Starting	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	
Samoa	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered	Covered	
Solomon Is	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered	Covered	
Tonga	Enacted	Draft	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	
Tuvalu	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered	Covered	
Vanuatu	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered	Covered	washing machine

# MEPSL Implementation and experiences in selected PICs

## Recent MEPSL training in the PICs – Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands



Kiribati, March 2023



Tuvalu, May 2023



Solomon Is, April 2024



# 1. Fiji

## Department of Energy (DoE)

- Sole regulator of MEPSL
- Conduct inspection and issue permits
- Making, amending, suspending or revoking guidelines in relation to the energy labeling and standards.
- Legal proceedings and offences
- Carry out disposal process.
- Promote and awareness to general public
- Conduct retailer/ customs trainings
- Carry out shop floor audits

\*As of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012 it is mandatory for **All Household Freezers and Refrigerators** being imported into Fiji to comply with MEPSL

# Fiji...con't

## Key stakeholders:

Stakeholders	Functions
Shop Retailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retailers and importers of MEPS regulated goods</li> </ul>
The Fiji Revenue and Customs Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Point of contact at the Border</li> <li>• Appoints custom officers to examine, flag and detains MEPSL regulated goods</li> <li>• Assists DoE in temporary storage of detained items</li> </ul>
Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives and SMEs .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custodians of MEPSL regulation</li> <li>• Fiji's National Standards Body</li> </ul>
The Solicitor Generals Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal advise</li> <li>• Drafting and Gazettal of Legislation</li> </ul>
Department of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisors disposal of confiscated goods.</li> <li>• Provides permit for Landfill</li> </ul>

## Fiji...con't

### Challenges

- MEPSL Team is centralized therefore mobilization for inspections, trainings and shop audits in the Western and Northern Division is challenging.
- Despite having adequate awareness, importers still fail to apply for permits prior to importation.
- Staff turnover/transfer to other positions within Department
- Customers seeking assistance from higher authority with regards to release of non-compliance appliances.

## 2. Vanuatu

### Update on the EE Act and Regulations

- EE Act was passed by the parliament on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016;
- Gazetted by State Law on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017;
- Regulation was signed by the Minister of Climate Change and Energy on 29 September 2017;
- Gazetted by State Law on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017(commencement date);
- Applies to business and personal importers who have placed firm orders after the commencement date;
- Registration of regulated products is in good progress.

## *Vanuatu...con't*

### **Regulated Products (and commencement date/Year)**

- Fridges and Refrigerators(2017);
- Air Conditions(2017);
- Lightings(2017)
  - Incandescent Lamps;
  - Linear Fluorescent Lamp
  - Compact Fluorescent Lamps
  - Fluorescent Lamp Ballast
- Televisions(2023);
- Clothes Washers(2023).

*Vanuatu...con't*

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*Vanuatu...con't*

## PAD Registration Update in Vanuatu

- In April 2019, all applications and registrations were submitted, assessed and issued through the PAD;
- The regulator(DoE) created usernames and passwords for the major importers(especially retailers);
- All login details were distributed to respective users to allow them to register their products and apply for new registration certificates;
- In April 2021, Vanuatu worked in collaboration with the department of Trades to launched the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window(VesW) system;
- Once the VesW was officially launched, the PAD and the AS/NZ registration database were integrated into the VesW for product verification purposes.

*Vanuatu...con't*

## Approximate applications and registrations processed [2017 – 2023]

Year	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications rejected
2017	3	1	2
2018	65 (plus)	60	5 (plus)
2019	140 (plus)	138	2 (plus)
2020	65 (plus)	60	5 (plus)
2021	65 (plus)	59	6
2022/2023	Approx. 90 (ongoing)	Approx. 70 (ongoing)	Approx. 33 (ongoing)



*Vanuatu...con't*

## Challenges

- Staff turnover or communication breakdown within a company, which sometimes resulted in most traders/importers becoming aware of their implications once their products reach the border.
- Lack of funds for awareness, especially for public announcements throughout the available media outlets(e.g. television, radio, etc).
- Lack of adapted and attractive financing mechanisms (or financial incentives) to help reduce the high cost of EE products;
- High cost associated with EE programs.

### 3. Solomon Islands

- 2016 – Solomon Islands gazetted the regulations governing the importation of Restricted Electrical Appliances.
- The following are regulated under PALS:
  - Refrigerators and freezers (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
  - Air conditioners
  - Lights
- Stakeholders & their roles:

#### **ENERGY DIVISION**

- Regulator
- Coordinate the program
- Registration of importers, manage data base, compliance check etc

#### **CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

- Shop inspection
- Floor audit

#### **CUSTOMS & EXCISE DIVISION**

- Border control - Enforcement

# Challenges

- Operation of the PAD data base.
- Linkage between the PAD and the Australian/ New Zealand Database.
- Verification issues - Testing
- Registration of importers/ exporters to the PALS Database
- Registration of Appliances by importers- Staff Rotation. The need for continuous training
- Compliance check on affected appliances imports (floor audit/inspection)
- Engagement of clearance officers by importers
- Lack of staff at new ports e.g Noro port.



Thank you!!