

Tonga National Workshop on Electric Vehicle

PCREEE EV programs for the PICs

*Nuku'alofa, Tonga
16 July 2026*

Electric
ive



4th Pacific Energy Transport Ministers Meeting Direction (Samoa, 2019)

Requested SPC/PCREEE, UNIDO and SIDS DOCK to develop a regional policy document with regional e-mobility targets for 2030 & 2050, a regional e-mobility program to address barriers and to promote SIDS-SIDS cooperation and exchange on integrated e-mobility.

Three Reports: Technical Background, Regional Policy & Regional Programme

<https://www.pcreee.org/event/online-validation-regional-e-mobility-policy-and-program-pacific-islands>

*****Regional E-mobility Policy adopted in 2020 and started rolling out in 2021**

Objective: PICTs are best prepared for their respective sustainable mobility futures

Developed regional e-mobility policy has 4 key components

1. Central Policy and Administration
2. Standards and Guidelines
3. Awareness & Promotion.
4. Demonstration & Upscale



What is PCREEE?

- Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.
- Established in 27th April 2017 and going 10 years now
- Part of a global network comprising 11 regional centres
- Concluding of 2nd Operational Phase: 2021-2025
- UNIDO, Austria, UK & NZ funding support



SPC – The Pacific Community



Geoscience, Energy and
Maritime



Climate Change and
Environmental Sustainability



Educational Quality and
Assessment



Fisheries, Aquaculture & Marine
Ecosystems



Public Health



Statistics for Development



Flagships



Human Rights and Social
Development



Land Resources



Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

SE4ALL Centre of Excellence to Promote Sustainable Energy Markets, Industries and Innovation

Vision: “Promoting sustainable energy markets to transform the lives of Pacific Islands people”.

Mission: To create, educate, and facilitate the increased awareness and development of the RE&EE Agenda in the Pacific region, with special emphasis on the private sector and local industries.

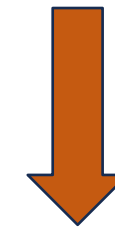
Objectives:

- To improve access to modern, affordable, and reliable energy services, energy security, and mitigation of negative externalities of the energy system (e.g. local pollution and GHG emissions)
- To promote RE&EE investments, markets, and industries in the PICTs.



Four (4) Strategic Areas

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



Support to PICs

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

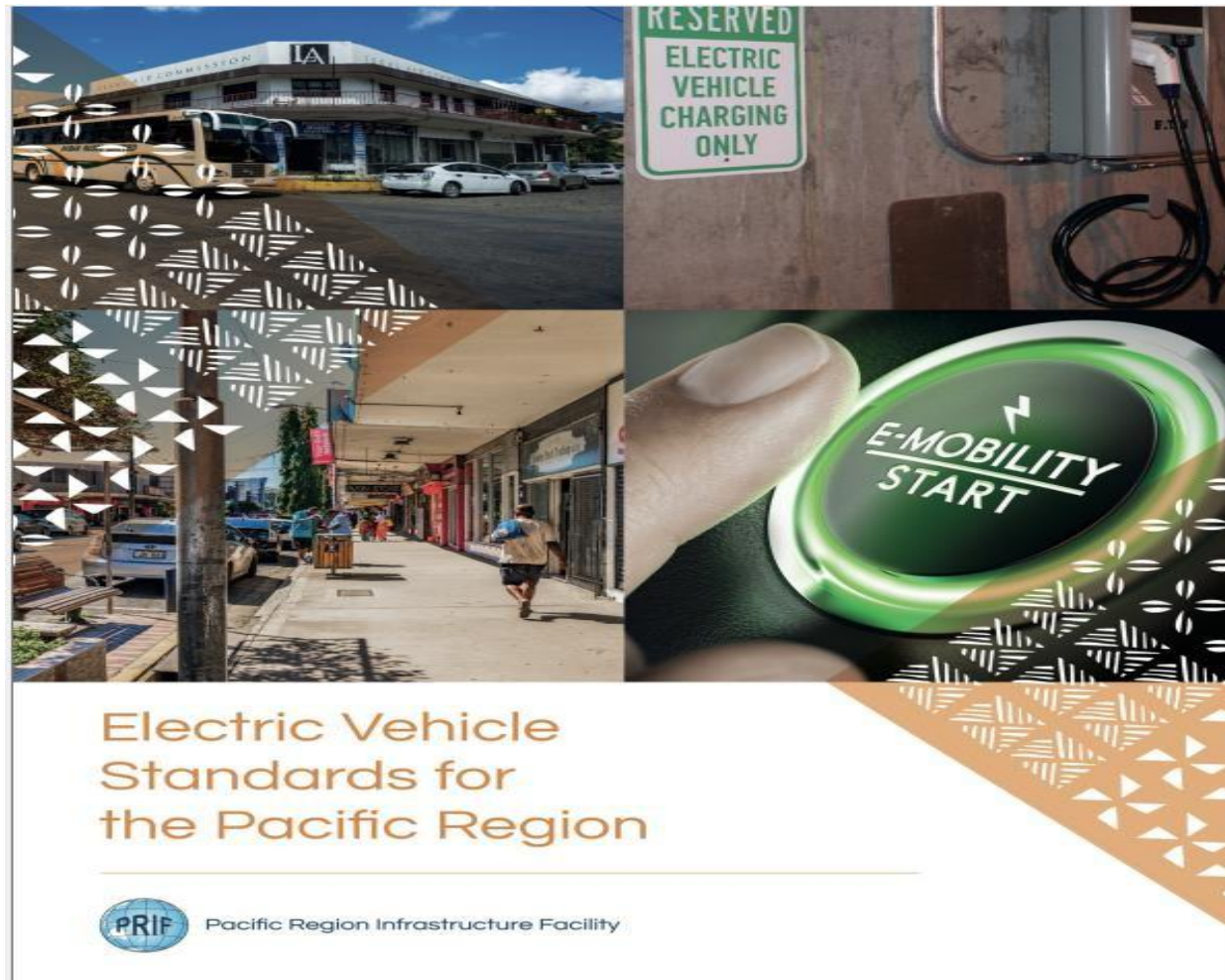
1. Central Policy and Administration

1. First in-person regional workshop on EVs (hosted by PCREEE), Suva Fiji Nov 2023 → Establishment a Pacific Islands EV Working Group.
2. 1st EV Group meeting in 2024, Tonga
2. Legal and policy reviews in Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu & Solomon Is through close collaboration between AVI, Ashurst and SPC



2. Standards & Guidelines

Generally led by the PRIF. Regional workshop in Oct 14 – 18 Nov 2024, regional workshop (validation) in Auckland, NZ



**** published in Feb 2024**

3. Awareness & Promotion

1. Supported the participation of PICs representatives at the NZ annual e-mobility summit in Auckland, nz 2022, 2023 & 2024
2. Supported the national energy awareness of PICS – Samoa in 2023, 2024 and 2025, Tonga 2026
3. Development of awareness materials, EV leaflets, brochures etc – available online: [PCREEE EV Readiness Programme \(PEV ReadPro\)](#)



NZ E-mobility Summit 2024



Samoa Energy Week 2025



Tonga National Energy Awareness Week 2026, 26 – 27 March



4. Demonstration & Upscale

1. Promote government leadership in purchasing of appropriate EVs. **Vanuatu thru Ministry of Climate Change, Cook Islands, Tonga (hybrid vehicles – for PIFs)**
2. Consider supporting electric bus demonstrations. **Nauru**
3. Consider supporting the demonstration of other non-passenger car EV projects if there is a good case for them. **SI EV showroom**
4. Consider methods to share heavy EV technical support capability across fleets and PICTs.
5. Consider opportunities for the electrification of small marine vessels. **Done by SPC Maritime Programme in Fiji**
6. Facilitate or co-invest in public charging infrastructure.
7. Provide facilities in support of micro through large e-mobility options, beginning with facilities at public offices.
8. Develop EV service industry and support local capability and capacity. – **Cook Is**
9. Support the introduction of Time of Use (TOU) electricity pricing.
10. Conduct investment forums on EVs – **Vanuatu, Kiribati & Tuvalu & Tonga (recently)**



- ✓ In 2023, the Cook Islands (CI) hosted the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum.
- ✓ CI Government procured 25 EVs to transport leaders in Rarotonga.
- ✓ After the Forum, EVs were allocated to line ministries, with charging infrastructure managed by Te Aponga Uira.
- ✓ PCREEE provided technical support to:
 - Assess Rarotonga's power and road infrastructure and recommend strategic EV charging sites.
 - Advise on suitable charging technologies and business/payment models. Technical assistance completed in June 2024.
- ✓ In early 2025, Te Aponga requested PCREEE to procure a 60kW fast charger
- ✓ Installation completed in April and regional EV training held from 20–23 April 2026.



Republic of Nauru

E-bus Demo

- Thru GEF-funded project – SMARTEN
- Two electric buses and a charging station, the first in Nauru!!
- Capacity of 12- 15 people
- 5 local mechanics in Nauru were selected to travel to E-Bus manufacturer – ANKAI in China.
- 1-week site visits & hands-on technical trainings on operating /servicing of the eBus.
- e- buses arrived in Dec, 2024.



Known E-mobility Developments (~last 5 years)

Tuvalu



E-bikes

- Funded by – World Bank
- Total Landed Cost - USD\$35K (including spare parts, tools and training)
- Contractor – EastWest, China
- No of e-Motorcycles - 12

E-Cars with Charging Station Demo

- Funded by GEF for the Project Title “Facilitation of the Achievement of Sustainable National Energy Targets of Tuvalu (FASNETT) Project”
- Implementing Agency – UNDP, Suva, Office
- Supplier - Leaf Capital Pte Ltd, Suva and owned by Mr. Alex Reddaway.
- Including a Car Park
- Charging Station
 - Solar PV array - 20kWp
 - Battery Storage – 45kWp
- Partnership Arrangement
 - Leaf Capital Pte Ltd, Fiji supply the e-car, charging station, and car park construction materials.
 - TEC will do the construction of the Car Park and installation of the solar PV and battery.



Republic of Marshall Islands

- 3 Evs gov't procured.
- Under the World Bank's sustainable energy development project (SEDep) – 4EVs
- 4 EVs (Hyundai models), 2 with NEO office, 2 with the MEC
- As well as 2 public charging stations – both have installed at the MEC premises.
- NEO provided a prepaid warranty payment to local Hyundai supplier to cover maintenance services during 1st 2 years.
- Data collection is on-going (NEO & MEC)



UNDP completed its Japan-funded CAP-IT project in Samoa last December 2025, commissioning over ten (10) EV charging stations and five (5) E-Board charging stations across Samoa (including the delivery of 75 EVs and 2–5 E-boats for the Government of Samoa). EPC is the CPO

Green transformation of transport sector in Samoa receives major boost with mass donation of 76 EVs from UNDP to the Government of Samoa

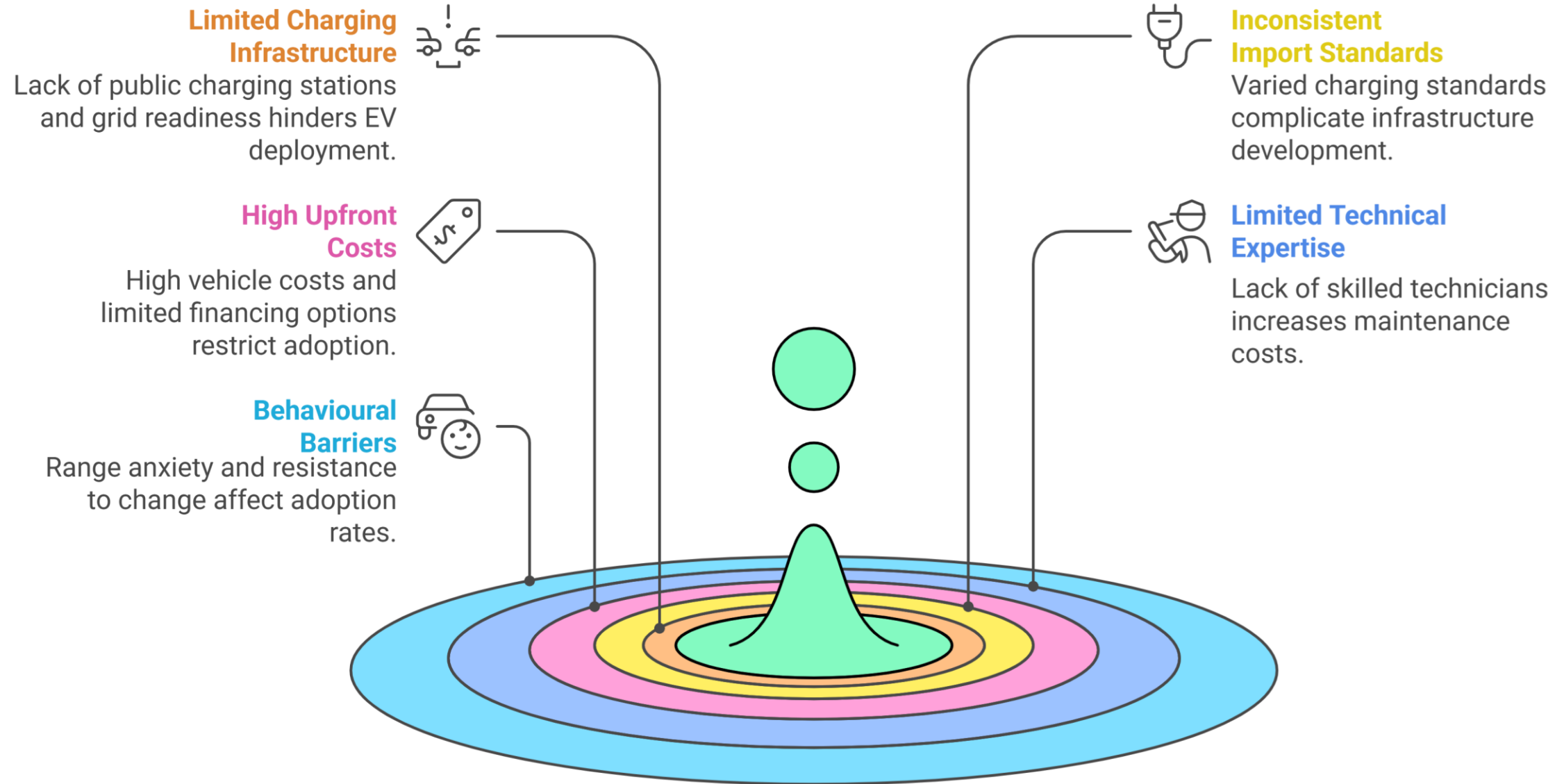
OCTOBER 3, 2024





- **Switch Network** launches first-ever electric vehicle charging network at Kundan Singh Supermarket in late September 2022.
- It is a 30kW charger that can fully charge an EV in 20 minutes and can travel in 155kms.
- Station has a solar generator in case of power outage.

Challenges to EV Uptake



CHANGING THE TRAVEL STORY WITH ELECTRIC VEHICLES



- ✓ **REDUCE FUEL DEPENDENCY**
- ✓ **CLEANER AIR, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES**
- ✓ **POWERING WITH RENEWABLES**



LEARN MORE: www.pcreee.org



At the 6th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting (PRETMM), Ministers reaffirmed the important role of PCREEE in advancing e-mobility in the region by endorsing the following recommendations from the Senior Energy Officials Meeting:

- . ***“Request PCREEE, in collaboration with relevant regional partners, to lead regional coordination and policy signalling for e-mobility, including mechanisms for peer learning and the development of shared tools”; and***
- . ***“Request PCREEE to strengthen regional coordination, communication and knowledge sharing by supporting practical mechanisms for Pacific countries to exchange EV project experiences, lessons learned and technical specifications, thereby accelerating the deployment of electric mobility across the region”.***

Malo ‘aupito.