

Can Tokelau support itself with solar energy?

Tokelau, an island nation in the South Pacific, is now completely able to support itself with solar energy. Elly Earls met Joseph Mayhew of the New Zealand Aid Programme to find out how this tiny collection of atolls has become almost 100% self-sufficient in less than 12 months.

Where does Tokelau get its electricity from?

Except for that part of the electricity supply provided by Solar Photovoltaic (PV) to TeleTok facilities on all three atolls and the University of the South Pacific (USP) facility on Atafu, essentially all energy in Tokelau currently is from imported petroleum.

What is the Tokelau PV project?

The Government of Tokelau sees the PV Project as the first step and therefore trial towards the long-term goal of energy independence based on renewable energy. The project is implemented by the Government of Tokelau and funded jointly by Government of New Zealand, Government of France, UNESCO Apia and UNDP Samoa.

Why is electricity so expensive in Tokelau?

Before the PowerSmart systems were installed on the nation's three atolls, Tokelau was highly dependent on imported fossil fuels to meet its energy needs and therefore vulnerable to international price fluctuations and increasing fuel costs, making electricity extremely expensive for both households and businesses.

How much electricity does a solar system provide in Tokelau?

Each system alone is among the largest off-grid solar power systems in the world, and together they are capable of providing 150% of current electricity demand in Tokelau, a much higher amount than the 90% that was originally planned for.

What is Tokelau's energy policy?

The primary focus of the policy is the desire of Tokelau to become self-reliant in energy through a combination of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

Implementation: Tokelau consists of three small coral atolls located about 500 km north of Samoa. It is a small island nation with limited land resources, fairly isolated, with only one form of transportation available and a ...

Thomas Tafi a (Nauru Utilities Corporation; formerly Head of the Energy Department, Tokelau), Apisake Soakai (Consultant) and Thomas Lynge Jensen (United Nations Development Programme) are gratefully acknowledged. This report could not have been completed without their generous assistance.



## Acr energy Tokelau

Implementation: Tokelau consists of three small coral atolls located about 500 km north of Samoa. It is a small island nation with limited land resources, fairly isolated, with only one form of transportation available and a very mobile population.

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