

Does the Cook Islands have solar power?

The Cook Islands Electricity Sector historically been powered by diesel generators. Since around 2011, increasing solar PV generation on Rarotonga has changed this situation. And in 2014- 15, installation of 95-100% renewable solar hybrid systems on the Northern Group Islands further altered the mix.

Will the Cook Islands use renewable electricity?

The Cook Islands will be careful in its selection of renewable electricity options and will not entertain unproven or non-commercial technologies. The attached Summary Table provides some indicative and preliminary information on the types and costs of the renewable electricity technologies we are considering.

How will new energy technologies affect the Cook Islands?

In future, new energy technologies such as marine energy may offer new opportunities for the Cook Islands to generate electricity from other renewable sources. Developments in energy storage or in energy efficiency may also further reduce the Cook Islands' reliance on diesel. The Cook Islands prefers to use proven and economic energy technologies.

Where are solar panels installed in the Cook Islands?

The Cook Islands is a recipient of the Fund and has committed to installing Solar (PV) systems for the islands of Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Nassau, Suvarrow and part of Manihiki.

What is a Cook Islands renewable electricity chart (road map)?

This document is called the Cook Islands Renewable Electricity "Chart". Other countries have called similar documents a "Road map" - and these are countries that are either landlocked or have many kilometres of road between settlements. Our environment is different. We have many kilometres of sea between islands.

What changes will the Cook Islands make?

The changes will include management of power utilities, environmentally friendly and cost effective renewable electricity sources, and energy efficient strategies. The Cook Islands will be careful in its selection of renewable electricity options and will not entertain unproven or non-commercial technologies.

In its approach to delivering a 100% renewable energy target across 12 islands by 2020, the Cook Islands presents a rare insight into how planning requirements of high penetration renewable...

Renewable energy in the Cook Islands is primarily provided by solar energy and biomass. Since 2011 the Cook Islands has embarked on a programme of renewable energy development to improve its energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, [1] with an initial goal of reaching 50% renewable electricity by 2015, and 100% by 2020. [2]

Although nearly all households in the Cook Islands are connected to grid electricity, only 5.5% of households have additional solar photovoltaic systems installed, and 1% use small diesel generators. Several actions have taken place throughout the islands to increase the uptake of renewable energy.

Sources: IRENA statistics, plus data from the following sources: UN SDG Database (original sources: WHO; World Bank; IEA; IRENA; and UNSD); UN World Population Prospects; UNSD Energy Balances; UN COMTRADE; World Bank World Development

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The Cook Islands National Environment Service recognises the importance of the environment to the people of the Cook Islands. Our cultural identity is deeply rooted in our environment and it is a part of our heritage and legacy that must be passed on to future generations of Cook Islanders.

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The Cook Islands has a financially healthy electricity sector with technical and commercial challenges requiring on-going investment. With the exception of Pukapuka, Nassau and Suvarrow, the Cook Islands has some form of electricity network. Power supply on Rarotonga is the responsibility of the government-owned utility Te Aponga Uira ("TAU").

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