

Samoa aims for 20% by 2030 renewable energy target

Samoa has announced its aim to achieve 20 per cent renewable energy usage by 2030. According to United Nations Development Program in Apia Renewable Energy Advisor Thomas Jensen, renewable energy is the only certain way for the Pacific to survive the “energy game” and stand unaffected by the global crisis. “The Pacific can absolutely develop renewable energy so as to minimise its dependence on the western world for energy,” says Jensen. The Ministry of Finance says that renewable energy currently utilised in Samoa includes biomass, solar and hydro-power. Biomass use in Samoa consists of firewood, coconut shells and husks which are mainly utilised in domestic cooking. Solar energy technology is insignificant by comparison to national consumption but continual growth in imports of solar energy technologies was recorded between 2002 and 2007. Hydropower currently supplies around 40 per cent of electricity to the main grid in Upolu. The Transport Sector uses the most energy in Samoa with 47.3 per cent of total energy consumption in 2007 alone.

[Source essa news]