

EU provides € 2.3 million for energy efficiency in Nauru

The European Commission today approved € 2.3 million under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to achieve energy efficiency in Nauru. This is part of the EU's ongoing commitment to decrease the island's dependency on fossil fuel, to generate electricity from renewable sources and to improve energy efficiency.

"The overall objective of the initiative, which builds on previous projects funded under the 9th EDF, is to reduce Nauru's dependency on fossil fuel imports and to improve its trade balance. Saving on energy costs will also increase the available national and household budgets to foster social and economic developments in Nauru," stated Wiepke van der Goot, Head of the European Commission Delegation for the Pacific.

The Pacific island of Nauru has a population of about 10,000 people and relies almost entirely on imported petroleum products for power generation and transportation. Under the 10th EDF, the EU will fund a series of activities which aim to significantly improve the energy efficiency of the whole country. Activities include the creation and maintenance of a database for NUA's operational data, reduction of technical losses on the distribution system by 25%, decreasing malfunctions on the distribution network by 50% and an assessment of the potential for wind energy.

Out of the total allocation of € 2.3 million under the 10th EDF, € 170.000 will be made available for the continuation of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan developed under the 9th EDF. Work in this area will include conducting energy audits on buildings, replacing inefficient lighting in government structures and continuing awareness campaigns on energy efficiency.

Under the 9th EDF, the EU funded several initiatives that responded directly to the most urgent needs of the island's energy sector. Projects previously funded include the installation of a 40 kWp solar power system on the roof of Nauru College, an awareness campaign on energy efficiency, an Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the introduction of a new prepayment metering system to improve revenue collection by the Nauru Utilities Authority (NUA), the island's sole energy provider.

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