



Government of Samoa

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



Samoa Emissions Reduction Program (ERP): Working Together for a Greener and Sustainable Samoa

Program Overview

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) with the support of the Government of New Zealand under the Samoa-New Zealand Climate Finance Partnership Arrangement, is pleased to launch as part of its comprehensive climate change mitigation strategy, a targeted Emissions Reduction Program (ERP) to accelerate Samoa's transition to a low-carbon, sustainable and greener economy.

The ERP is designed to support the achievement of Samoa's national target of 70% of renewable energy use by 2031 and meet international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26% by 2030 compared to 2007 levels.

The Program aims to incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the transport, energy and tourism sector. Applications are now open for interested and eligible individuals, businesses, communities including schools and churches under the three (3) main categories below:

- Component 1: Hybrid & Electric Vehicles
- Component 2: Greening the Tourism Industry
- Community 3: Community Renewable Energy Projects.

Components Details

Component 1: Promotion of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (EVs)

Objective: Reduce reliance on fossil fuels and emissions by increasing the uptake of hybrid and EVs.

Eligibility and Criteria:

- Rebate on Electric and Hybrid vehicles- must not exceed 40% of total vehicle cost.
- Only vehicles manufactured within the last 10 years are eligible.
- Vehicles must accompany a battery status report highlighting battery health >80%.
- Vehicles are purchased from approved supplier list determined by Technical Working Group or by Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE) in the case of direct imports by Individuals/ businesses.
- Meet Samoa's prescribed performance, emissions and service thresholds.

- Purchaser must retain ownership of the vehicle for a minimum of 12 consecutive months immediately after the vehicle purchase date (to avoid/ limiting the number of rebates to individual households/ businesses).
- Prior approval must be obtained before purchase of the vehicle using '**Form A**' to qualify for a rebate. This form must be jointly completed with the car dealer if purchased locally or individually in cases of direct imports.
- Following successful purchase of the vehicle, '**Form B**' must be completed to claim the pre-approved rebate amount.

Component 2: Greening Samoa's Tourism Industry

Objective: Encourage tourism businesses to adopt energy-efficient and renewable energy solutions to promote sustainable tourism.

Areas of Intervention:

Interventions include, but not limited to:

- Renewable energy generating systems: solar.
- Lighting: solar and LED installations.
- Water-heating equipment: Solar-based water heaters, heat pumps.
- Energy-efficiency appliances (bulk purchases): biogas stoves, solar cookers, energy efficient devices, etc.

Component 3: Community-Level Low Emissions Development Projects

Objective: Empower communities to implement low-emission, sustainable energy projects that foster local development.

Areas of Intervention:

Interventions include, but not limited to:

- Solar rooftops for schools, churches, communal areas, street lighting.
- Installation of community owned EV charging stations.
- Biogas installations.
- Bulk purchase of solar powered devices- for disaster relief.
- Community borehole powered with solar or hybrid system.
- Add- on measures: energy storage (batteries), insulation, secondary glazing, draught proofing, replacement LEDs bulbs and for appropriate light fittings, smart controls, etc.

Overview of Rebate and Grant Selection Process

Component 1: Promotion of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (EVs)

- Applicants must seek pre-approval for rebate qualification using **Form A**.
- Purchase and settlement of the vehicle must be completed within 21 days from the approval date to qualify for the rebate payment.

- **Form B** must be completed to claim a rebate. All funds will be electronically transferred to the bank account details provided on **Form B**. It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure all bank account details are correct. For security or clarification purposes, we may contact you about your details. Payments will not be made into overseas bank accounts, credit card, loan or mortgage accounts.

Component 2: Greening Samoa's Tourism Industry and Component 3: Community-Level Low Emissions Development Projects

Components 2 and 3 of the program will follow a four- phase application process:

- **Phase 1 (Timeline- 3 weeks):** Applicants must submit funding proposals by the due date. MNRE, with assistance from Technical Working Group (TWG), will screen all submitted funding proposals to check that eligibility criteria are met and that the proposed project fits with priorities of the Samoa ERP. Unsuccessful funding proposals will be notified by email.
- **Phase 2 (Timeline- 1 week):** Proponents of the successful funding proposals from phase one will be invited to meet and discuss their funding proposal in more detail (if needed) with the TWG and address any issues/clarifications highlighted by the evaluation team. The TWG will evaluate the funding proposals and scores based on different aspects of the proposal (including the work plan and monitoring plan for implementation). Depending on funding available, number of projects/funding needed and their respective ranking, the Team will select the projects to advance to the next stage. If the available funding is too small to fund all proposals, some proposals may be put on a reserve list – of proposals that may be offered funding if a higher-scoring project does not go ahead or additional funds become available.
- **Phase 3:** The TWG (CEO Level of the Governance Structure) will give the final approval for projects they deem most appropriate to receive funding support.
- **Phase four:** Successful funding proposals will proceed to the due diligence and grant contracting stage. Once Grant Agreement is signed, the will be funds disbursed to commence implementation.

Eligibility, Grant Size and Period Performance

Who can apply?

- Statutory organization, registered Private Businesses, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in Samoa involved in the low emissions development space and supporting gender sensitized national development or are either involved in community development in one or more of the priority areas for Samoa ERP or are interested in integrating sustainable solution/ approaches into their existing programmes/projects/initiatives.

- Community Based Organizations (for example: youth groups, women’s groups, religious groups, as well as social enterprises) that are involved in community development, are encouraged to apply with a letter of support from local/subnational government partner or registered CSOs and NGOs.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit their letters of partnership with local/subnational government stakeholders, CSO/NGO partners, government gender machinery and government agencies responsible for climate change and disaster risk management. Selected applicants might be required to submit support letters from partner public agencies. Land access/ title rights may also need to be submitted where applicable.

Ineligible Activities:

- Support to individuals or families – such as scholarships or individual or family assistance payments.
- Religious or political activities, i.e., grantees must adopt non-religious¹ and non-political² neutral approach.
- Fundraising, donations or prizes.
- Repayments of loans or bank overdrafts.
- Expenses which have already been paid for (retroactive funding).
- Activities which are contrary to priorities of the Samoan Government.
- Activities that have significant component of professional salaries.

Funding Amount:

Samoa ERP will determine the most appropriate level of grant funding prior to award, as applicable. The two types of possible grants that may be awarded by the Samoa ERP are:

1. **Greening of Samoa’s Tourism Industry:** up to ST \$100,000 per qualifying proposal.
2. **Supporting Community Level Low Emissions Development:** up to ST \$100,000 per qualifying proposal.

Grants will be awarded in accordance with the nature and relevance of the project.

Applications will be disqualified and will not be further considered, if they:

¹ Religious activities include the non-development related outreach and/or subsidization of these activities

² Political activities include direct or indirect interventions in electoral or party based political activities such as election campaigns, elections processes, supporting or opposing a political candidate during elections and contributions to a political party or individual candidate’s fund (even if independent)

1. Do not comply with priorities or instructions provided in this announcement.
2. Are not consistent with the relevant policy documents of Government of Samoa.
3. Contradict principles of non-discrimination and gender equality.

IMPORTANT: You will be notified by email no later than three working days after we have successfully received your application. If you do not hear from us within this timeframe, please, contact us during the next two days and request confirmation of receipt of the email. Otherwise, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) will not be responsible for any potential issues in terms of considering the application.

To participate, simply:

1. Download Application Form from the MNRE Website or uplift from the Office
2. Complete Form and attach required supporting documentation
3. Submit all completed applications to MNRE at Level 3 TATTE Building.
4. All Applications are due on **Monday, 3rd February 2025 at 12pm**. Late applications and incomplete Forms will not be considered.

To facilitate the completion of application forms, the Ministry will hold a series of workshops from the **15th – 17th January** at the Level 3, Conference Room, TATTE Building from 10am to 12pm. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact Vainalepa Toiata Apelu-Uili, ACEO Renewable Energy Division on email toiata.uili@mnre.gov.ws or telephone 67200.