PROJECT TITLE: Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Community

WPSP THEMES Captures:

Two of the main WPSP themes integrated in this project are:

1. Climate & Energy

   Topics covered includes:

- Use and production of renewable energy in the port
- Setting ambitious carbon reduction/neutrality target

2. Community Building

   Topics covered includes:

- Open port initiatives
- Community and social engagement programme

Solomon Ports and its green port initiative

When we embarked on the green port journey – in 2017, we have shifted our focus from a traditional diesel fueled approach in our operations to a more energy efficient manner, meaning a significant reduction in our reliance on fossil fuels, to exploring and expanding more towards adopting efficient and renewable energy solutions. Since then, we have invested towards solar energy solutions and the implementation of energy saving technologies. We have also adopted international and local initiatives to ensure our operations produce little to minimal carbon footprint. So far, we have installed solar lighting poles around both our Ports of Honiara and Noro, these are mainly on streetlights, residential lights, and lights for our domestic terminals, we can also proudly attest that we are the first and only Port in the Pacific region to have state of the art 'LED' Lighting technology in our facilities, in 2019 we commissioned the SBD$15 Million dollar LED lighting project in Honiara Port, and a similar $14 Million project for Noro Port was completed in 2021.

- Our aim and vision are to be a 'Carbon Neutral Port' by 2030, and the leading Port in the region in terms of championing the use of renewable energy use and energy efficient solutions. We have also recently been accorded as a signatory to the Global Maritime Program's De-carbonization plan, which we will continuously work towards reducing our carbon usage and emissions in our operations.
- 35% of our energy comes from renewable sources in Honiara and Noro ports and we are aiming to achieve at least a 60% of energy use of renewable energy by 2025
- Largest solar outfit in the in a Pacific Port .

1. Building a community cohesion to promote and use renewable energy

Solomon Ports in adopting a renewable energy utilization approach is also encouraging communities to go green. In doing this we are giving back to our country and communities within in the form of solar panel donations to rural communities, installing solar panels, and lighting entire streets, market areas and schools of the less fortunate citizen that are deprived to equal opportunity access to electricity through clean energy.

As part of the extension of our port-community dialogue through the Green Port Project, Solomon Ports embarked on this project to support rural communities to provide sustainable energy for those who never had previous access any form of energy at all.

Following projects in different rural communities already benefitted as part of this project

- **Tulagi project** – In December 2021, Solomon Ports' latest installment for Solar power project provided the much-needed Solar pole streetlights for the Tulagi market and its main access road a total of 6 with a total power of 657 kWh annually of free power use with a saving cost of SBD$4.4k annually that can be invested back into sustainable development efforts for the Tulagi Township.
- **Rendova project** – in 2019 Solomon Ports handed over solar power project that brought electricity to a Primary school on Madili village in Rendova Island. This project brought light and power to two classroom buildings and 6 staff houses. This has allowed children to continue their studies at night, prepare for exams and for teachers to type and print exams at home without having to travel by boat 3 hours to the nearest town, thus saving money. This was the first time for this community to have access to such technology, and lighting in such capacity.
- **Noro Town market**- In 2020 Solomon Ports also handed over and installed solar lighting poles at the Noro town market, Western Province. This has provided much needed lighting for market vendors from surrounding islands and provinces who usually spent the night at the market to safely stay at the market and also ensure their produce are safe. It also acts as a crime deterrent for the vendors and Noro public, as the streets near the market are properly luminated during the night.
- **Sepi village community hall-** For years until 2019, Sepi village in Isabel province have been relying on Kerosene Lamps for their community hall, whenever they held a meeting In the evenings or whenever they have guests stayed overnight in their village, take note that community halls are common throughout the Solomon islands, it is usually the most important building in a village apart from the Church, it is where villagers usually hold important meetings regarding community matters, and also hosting visitors or guests who needed a place to stay. For Sepi village, it all changed in 2019 when Solomon Ports handed over Solar power system to power their new community hall, this will power lights, fans, and power points inside the building, Sepi elders and villagers will no longer spend much money on kerosene as in the past and will conduct important community meetings at any time of the day or night.

2. Project road map

- This project would be extended towards the most deprived communities in all 9 provinces.
- Solomon Port has fully self-funded all its community support projects with an Investment USD 100,000.
- For Each of the 9 Provinces, Solomon Ports have collaborated with the Provincial Government to select a key economic centre within its boundary that the funded lights can enhanced its daily activities in a sustainable way, thus, providing convenient renewable energy source like the solar lights simple installments and easily maintain.

2a.Expected Outcomes:

1. Improved lighting around Provincial centers to facilitate economic activities and gathering at any given time of day or night.
2. Improved lighting as a beacon of navigation for fishermen along the coast and safety for road commuters

2b. Beneficiaries:

1. 80% of total population recorded living in the rural sector of each province
2. Market vendors
3. Women and children
4. Fishermen
5. Tribal group meetings/social gatherings

2c. Project Cycle

1. dentification- Each Provincial Governments stakeholders accepts donations and select contractors to setup Solar light poles
2. Preparation: Our Team provide detailed design of project to stakeholders with operational costs and shipments
3. Appraisal/Approval: Final review of selected sites and approval of work commencing
4. Implementation/Monitoring: Our Team travel to site on check of progress and feedback
5. Evaluation: periodic review of project with feedback for next project

2d.Duration of Project (per project): 10 Weeks

Week 1: Order of construction materials
Week 2: Approval of Requisition and payments
Week 3: Collection of Materials and storage
Week 4: Identification of Project Site and contractor
Week 5: Preparation of foundation work on site
Week 6: Shipment of Materials to Project site (based on available shipping schedule- Subject to delayed
Week 7: Constructing of Footing base and Cement filling
Week 8 & 9: Foundation base Leave to complete curing of cement slabs
Week 10: Installation and Mounting of Solar Pole lights/ Units

1. Conclusion

With an aim to become a Zero Emission port by 2030, Solomon Ports is also endeavored to promote and build a social cohesion towards establishing renewable energy for rural communities in the Solomon Islands. Solomon Ports also take pride in investing in its communities to achieve this goal by assisting them with solar outfits, installation and maintenance and creating awareness the need for renewable for a sustainable community.