American Samoa set to Witness Lower Electricity Rates with Proposed 42-Megawatt Wind Turbine Project

The American Samoa Government is pleased to announce a groundbreaking initiative that will pave the way for lower electricity rates and a sustainable energy future. With the proposed 42-Megawatt (MW) Wind Turbine Project with battery storage, American Samoa is set to achieve significant progress in its renewable energy goals. Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga shared, “This project represents a significant step forward in our commitment to provide affordable and sustainable energy options for our territory. Lower electricity bills will not only ease the financial burden on our residents but also stimulate economic growth and improve the overall quality of life in American Samoa.”

American Samoa has long been committed to reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and embracing clean and sustainable energy sources. In 2016, the American Samoa Renewable Energy Committee (ASREC) set a goal for the Territory to be 50% renewable by 2025 and 100% by 2040. American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) is currently at 7% renewable with Photovoltaic (PV) Solar systems. The ASREC has explored other renewable energy resources such as Geothermal and OTEC, but concluded that wind and solar energy are the best alternatives for American Samoa. Recognizing wind energy as a viable solution, ASPA has collaborated with industry experts to develop a comprehensive plan that will revolutionize the energy landscape of the territory.

Once completed, the 42-Megawatt wind turbine project will have an immediate positive impact on the community. This new initiative will enable ASPA to purchase the electricity produced at a lower rate. The June 2023 Residential kWh rate is at $0.39, with a recent high in September 2023 of $0.54. This rate fluctuates with the rising cost of diesel fuel. However, the proposed electricity rate once the project is online will reduce electrical costs by up to 50%. The benefits of reducing rates will extend beyond just residential customers; businesses and industries will also see an improvement in their bottom lines. The potential savings...
can be significant and contribute to increased profitability, competitiveness, job creation, and overall economic growth.

In the upcoming months, ASPA intends to provide additional information to the public as well as conduct public outreach to further inform our residents. In order to ensure that this renewable energy project can coexist with the environment and help lower electricity costs; the environment will be prioritized during studies and all mitigation methods will be sought. The projected timeline is as follows: Environmental studies from 2023 to 2025, construction to commence in 2026, and wind turbines operational in 2028. For further information and updates on the 42-Megawatt Wind Turbine Project, please contact ASPA.

### Muagagana Fa'asamoa

#### E Mamae Le Tava'e I Ona Fulu

O le tava’e o se manulele e faapelepele tele i ona fulu ma mitamita i lona si’usi’u umē sinasina, ma e saafi tagata i lona uiga o le faamemelo i ona fulu i le muāgagana lenei, E mamae le tava’e i ona fulu. O isi upu e uiga faatasti e iai le Maeafu Faatava’e, ma le “Ua se tava’e faapelepele i ona fulu.” E moomia i lona uiga o le filemu pe a ui atu i luma le seu tava’e, ae lele saosaoa pe a ia iiloa se isi i ona tua. E mafua mai le manulele lenei nisi suafa o tama’ita’i o Tava’esina ma Tava’etoto, ma nisi.

#### Faaaogaina:

E faaoga e faatatau i se tagata poo ni tagata ua iai mea tāua ua faapelepeleina ma puipui malu ne’i afaina e pei o le tofi o se aiga ma se nuu e pei o lana gagana ma aga tausaafia. E faapena foi i se mea totino, suafa, foliga lalelei o se tama’ita’i, se galuega, matagaluega, ma soo se mea ua sili ona faapelepeleina ma puipuia.

### Dinner Reception in Honor of USS Canberra Navy Crew

A dinner reception to honor Commander William Ashley and the crew aboard the USS Canberra was held on the evening of July 3rd, 2023 at the Mauga o Alii in Utulei. The USS Canberra (LCS 30) docked in American Samoa on July 1st, 2023 for an overnight stay, however some circumstances had the crew here longer than expected.

“We are honored to host this reception for the crew of USS Canberra,” remarked Governor Lemanu. “The men and women of the Navy serve our country with distinction, and we are grateful for your service. We welcome you to American Samoa, and we wish you well on your commissioning ceremony and all your future deployments. Thank you once again for embracing us with your presence,” Governor Lemanu added.

USS Canberra is on its way to be ceremoniously commissioned on July 22, 2023 at the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Base East in Sydney, Australia. Canberra will be the first United States Navy warship to be commissioned in an allied country. Commander Ashley thanked Governor Lemanu and the people of American Samoa for the hospitality during their time in the territory.

The USS Canberra is one of 15 ships homeported in San Diego, California as a part of Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Squadron One.
The American Samoa Government is pleased to extend its appreciation to the American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB) for successfully hosting the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) Training Opportunity on Digital Marketing. This event showcased American Samoa’s commitment to promoting tourism and developing digital marketing strategies within the territory. Government and private organizations were invited to register and participate in the training program, which took place on July 10 and July 11, 2023. The training was led by industry expert Tasneem Hussein, Director of MyFijiStore, who shared her extensive knowledge and experience in digital transformation.

Throughout the training sessions, participants had the opportunity to explore digital marketing techniques, gain insights into industry best practices, and learn strategies to engage with potential visitors from around the world. The curriculum covered topics such as social media marketing, search engine optimization, content creation, and data analytics, empowering attendees with the tools they need to succeed in today’s highly competitive tourism landscape.

Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga expressed deep appreciation to the ASVB for hosting this invaluable training opportunity. “We are grateful to the American Samoa Visitors Bureau for their commitment to the development of our tourism industry. This collaboration between the ASVB and the SPTO underscores our shared commitment to elevating tourism standards and driving sustainable growth in the territory. We are confident that American Samoa and our regional counterparts will continue to thrive and attract visitors from across the globe.”

The American Samoa Government looks forward to further collaboration with the American Samoa Visitors Bureau, the South Pacific Tourism Organization, and other regional partners to create more opportunities that foster growth and development in our tourism industry.
The NOAA Ship Rainier concluded Leg 6 of the RICHARD (Rainier Integrates Charting, Hydrography, And Reef Demographics) cruise, which witnessed remarkable achievements in advancing scientific missions amidst challenging weather conditions and engineering obstacles.

On July 10, 2023, NOAA Research Ecologist Thomas A. Oliver, on behalf of the science group aboard Rainier, sent a summary report to the Governor's Office regarding the completion of this specific segment. This leg of the cruise focused on the National Coral Reef Monitoring Program (NCRMP) survey and the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) mapping efforts, encompassing a dedicated ten-day operation around Tutuila, American Samoa.

Dr. Oliver mentioned that the Oceans and Climate Change (OCC) team and Fish survey team, in collaboration with esteemed partners from the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa conducted the NCRMP survey and surpassed expectations. He further reports that the teams effectively completed the turnover of NCRMP-OCC cardinal transects on Tutuila and made significant progress in the fish survey efforts.

Governor Lemanu commends the group of scientists and crew members of the NOAA Ship Rainier for their commitment and resilience during the RICHARD expeditions. “On behalf of Lieutenant Governor Talauega, I extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated scientists for their unwavering commitment in providing us with reports of their invaluable operations conducted within our territory. Their continued efforts contribute immensely to our understanding and preservation of our enriched marine environment. We greatly appreciate their ongoing collaboration and look forward to further fruitful partnerships in the future,” stated Governor Lemanu.

The summary of the scientists’ work during a ten-day cruise indicated that the team conducted one hundred and fifty six dives to collect and deploy monitoring equipment and recorders, sample collections, fish and photo-quadrat surveys, Structure-from-Motion(SfM) transects, and more. In his closing remarks, Dr. Oliver expressed his appreciation to their team leads and scientists, and to the American Samoa Government.
The UW group consists of ten undergrad and graduate students who are of Samoan ancestry, and two faculty members: Anthropology Professor Dr. Holly Barker who is also the Curator of Oceanic and Asian Culture, Burke Museum; and Marine Biology Professor Dr. Luke Tornabene, also the Curator of Fishes at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture.

Governor Lemanu welcomed the group after the morning prayer and devotion. “I extend a warm welcome to you all and I am thrilled to know that some of you are returning to American Samoa to embrace the opportunity of reconnecting with your roots and cultural heritage,” said Governor Lemanu. He added, “Your commitment to preserving our traditions and strengthening our community is truly commendable. Together, let us forge a path of shared cultural pride and a brighter future for our beloved territory.”

Governor Lemanu presented the group with gifts and has encouraged them to explore the enchanting Manu'a Islands during their stay, immersing themselves in the island lifestyle and gaining insights into its remarkable history.

The recent decrease in world diesel fuel prices has also meant a reduction in American Samoa Power Authority's (ASPA) electric rates. Since the recent spike in September 2022 of about $0.53562 per kWh, the July 2023 Residential System Rate stands at $0.37975 per kWh.

The fuel surcharge portion of the rate, which changes with the increase or decrease in cost of diesel, for July 2023 is $0.28235, compared to the recent September 2022 high of $0.43822. This is a 36% DROP in the “fuel surcharge” portion of the electric rate.

ASPA continues to explore renewable energy options for American Samoa with Wind Turbine technology as well as Solar Photovoltaic Panels (PV). These two Renewable Energy resources are the only proven technology that will fit within our island's landscape with the limited land and limited flowing water for Hydro Power.

Until then, American Samoa is at the mercy of global fuel market prices and the many challenges faced with shipping as well as higher costs of materials around the world. The impacts of the aftermath of the war in Ukraine will continue to cause volatility in future fuel costs around the world and will ultimately affect the cost of electricity in American Samoa.
Peteli Academy Dedicates New Hall

Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga attended the dedication ceremony of the newly constructed Peteli Academy Hall on June 28, 2023, and delivered the keynote address. Distinguished guests such as Secretary of Samoan Affairs Afioga Mauga Tasi Asuega, President of the Senate Tuaolo Fruean, Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale, and distinguished members of the Congregation graced the ceremony held at the First Samoan Full Gospel Pentecostal Church (FSFGPC) Headquarters in Ottoville, Tafuna.

“Today, we gather here to celebrate a remarkable achievement—a testament to the church leaders’ unflattering commitment to the future of our youths and families. The journey to build this magnificent hall has not been without its challenges, but I commend you for your unceasing effort to complete it,” remarked Governor Lemanu.

Governor Lemanu highlighted the parallel efforts of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration and the leaders of the FSFGPC to support the youth of American Samoa and the struggles they face.

Recognizing the pressing need for quality educational spaces, the Peteli Academy has generously made provisions for classrooms within the hall, thus enabling a conducive environment for students to learn and grow spiritually and academically. The Peteli Academy consists of an Elementary School, a newly established High School curriculum, and a Bible Academy.
Upcoming Events
July 17 Manu’a Cession Day *Observed
July 28 Island Wide Clean Up
July 29 - August 4 Samoa Heritage (Hawaii)
August 4 US Coast Guard’s Birthday

Happy
cession Day
Manu’a