

Climate change and waste in the Pacific

Espen Ronneberg
Climate Change Adviser
SPREP

Regional policy context

- Cleaner Pacific 2025 – sets out regional guidance for recycle, reduce, refuse, reuse
- Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific – combines climate change and disaster risk responses in a single framework to guide national implementation
- Energy sector regulations – IPPs allowed

Waste to energy

- Interest in the region of exploring waste to energy – but systems too large, and burning solid municipal waste creates hazardous residue
- Challenge for Pacific clearly articulated in BPOA, MSI, SAMOA Pathway
- Green waste to energy has found solutions, including with invasive species

Technologies used

- Anaerobic digesters for green waste, invasive vines, supplemented by animal waste – cooking gas, fertilizer, potential for electricity
- Invasive trees and fallow coconuts through fast pyrolysis to bio-oil – electricity, but potential for making drop-in bio-diesel
- Simple gasification for electricity

Barriers

- Need to respond directly to the challenges specific to regions and sub-regions, capacity constraints, size of economy, and waste characterization
- Most waste to energy technology is focussed on larger countries, there has been little support towards scaling down of technologies for countries such as SIDS
- Challenge for private sector for funding

Private sector in Pacific

- Private sector face serious risks from climate impacts. Uniquely positioned to contribute to climate action, using innovative technologies to reduce emissions.
- Challenge for small scale mitigation projects in SIDS to attract international financing. CDM only three projects in the Pacific.

Just transition?

- Waste management mostly privatized, but waste collectors low paid.
- Private sector project in Samoa would secure higher paying jobs for rural youth, gender considerations in hiring management
- If waste can generate greater value for money, communities will benefit

Thank you

espenr@sprep.org

www.sprep.org

www.pacificclimatechange.net