

Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands

SEIAPI March 2026 Conference

Transitioning to Solar Energy in the Pacific Islands



After 15 years, the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI) will be hosting its first ever conference at the Grand Pacific Hotel (Suva, Fiji) from 24 to 25 March, 2026. The SEIAPI Executive Committee would like to invite the sustainable energy industry, development partners, government bodies, non-government organisations, training institutions and electric power utilities to be part of this knowledge-packed conference with a core focus on the energy transition to renewables and the challenges faced by the solar industry.

The Conference Announcement is on page 4. Or visit: <https://www.seiapi.com/seiapiconference2026/> . For any queries contact SEIAPI at secretariat@seiapi.com.

SEIAPI would like to express its gratitude to the sponsors who have come on board for the conference and promptly accepted the sponsorship request.

When the conference announcement was made few weeks back, there were only 3 initial sponsors, now grown to 7 sponsors, with more to confirm. Our sincere appreciation goes to:

- AC Solar Warehouse
- CBS Power Solutions
- Its Time Foundation
- Pacific Engineering Projects
- Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)
- PCS Ltd
- Superfly Limited

SEIAPI holds Industry meeting in Solomon Islands



A 3-hour workshop was conducted at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on Tuesday 9th December, 2025 by SEIAPI Executive Officer, Mr Geoff Stapleton. There were 13 people in attendance comprising representatives from Superfly Limited, Sunpower, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, Solomon Power (Utility) and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU).

The main issue was that Solomon Power does not allow grid-connected PV systems and requested SEIAPI's help in addressing this. In response, Solomon Power stated that they need to work on the regulations. SEIAPI offered its support and will continue to help create an enabling environment for sustainable energy in the region.



Global Lithium-ion battery pack prices for stationary storage declined sharply in 2025

Extracted from PV Magazine: Energy Storage (9 Dec 2025)

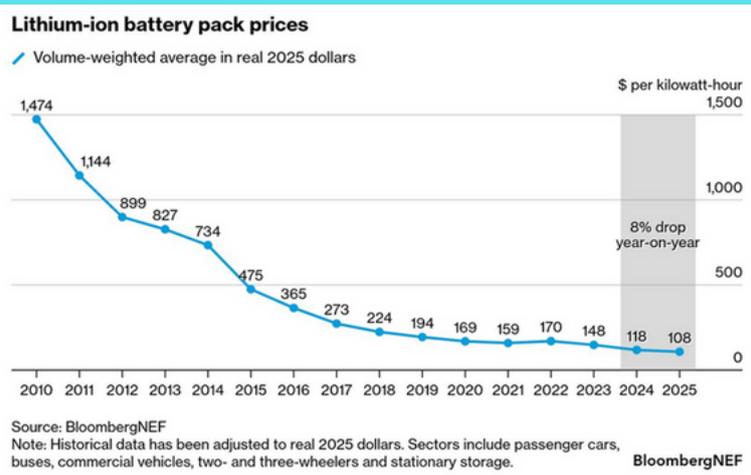
According to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, the pace of price decreases has slowed, but lithium-ion battery packs reached a new record low in 2025. Globally, prices have fallen 8% since 2024 to \$108/kWh, 93% lower than in 2010, despite an increase in battery metal costs and continued cell manufacturing overcapacity.

For stationary storage, battery pack prices for lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries overall fell to \$70/kWh in 2025, a 45% decrease from 2024. This makes stationary storage the cheapest category for the first time. In the transport sector, battery-electric vehicle packs were \$99/kWh, marking the second consecutive year they remained below the \$100/kWh threshold. Average LFP battery pack prices across all segments came in at \$81/kWh while nickel manganese cobalt (NMC) packs were at \$128/kWh.

The report also covers regional differences in pricing. Average battery pack prices were lowest in China, at \$84/kWh. Pack prices in the North America and Europe regions were 44% and 56% higher, reflecting higher local production costs and greater dependence on imported batteries, which typically come at a premium.

Although costs are much higher in the Pacific, with small volumes and high transport costs, overall “cut-throat competition is making batteries cheaper every year. This is an important moment for the industry, as record-low battery prices create an opportunity to lower EV costs and accelerate the deployment of grid-scale storage to support renewables integration around the world,” said Evelina Stoikou, the head of BNEF’s battery technology team. For more information, visit:

<https://www.ess-news.com/2025/12/09/bnef-lithium-ion-battery-pack-prices-fall-to-108-kwh-stationary-storage-becomes-lowest-price-segment/>



Tiered Electricity Price Increase for Fiji

On 19th December, the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) announced a revised electricity tariff for Energy Fiji Limited (EFL), that will take effect from 1 January 2026.

This follows a review of EFL’s revised submission, given to FCCC on 1 April 2025, after FCCC rejected EFL’s August 2023 Tariff submission on 29 February 2024.

FCCC Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ms Jiuta explained that the review was necessary to ensure that electricity prices remain fair and affordable for consumers, while allowing investments to maintain a reliable power supply, transition to renewable energy and secure Fiji’s long term energy security.

She added that the revised tariff structure balances protecting vulnerable households today, with no change for low-usage consumers up to 100 kwh/month usage, while securing long-term energy reliability and stability for Fiji through targeted investment in renewable energy and network upgrades.

Under the new tiered structure, domestic charges will reflect usage levels, as follows:

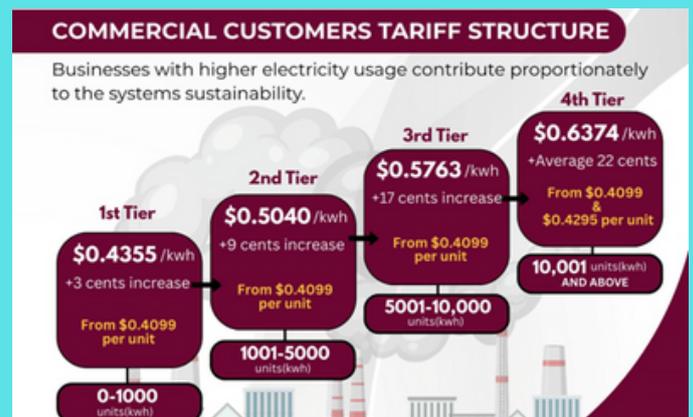
- Tier 1** (0–100 units): No change in rate (FJ\$0.3401/kWh);
- Tier 2** (101–300 units): Increase of FJ\$0.01 to FJ\$0.3503/kWh;
- Tier 3** (Above 300 units): Increase of FJ\$0.02 to FJ\$0.3605/kWh.

The average increase for Domestic (residential) customers for Tier 2 and Tier 3 is 4.5%, with the majority of lower-income households seeing no change to their bill.

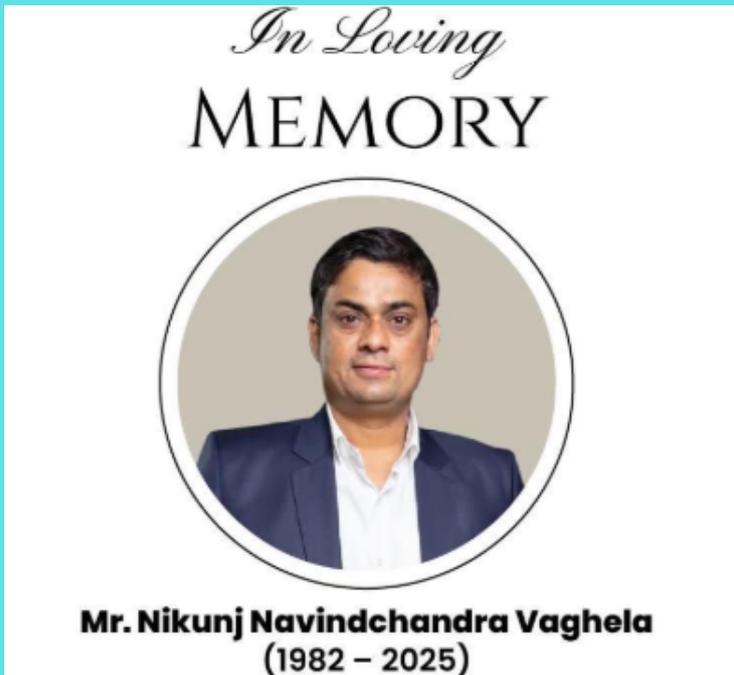
Commercial customers will face an average increase of approximately 35% across tier four usage tiers.

For Small Medium Enterprise using 1000 kwh/m and below, the bill will increase by F\$0.0256/kwh. About 16,000 commercial customers fall within this tier.

FCCC will begin nationwide public awareness sessions to explain the revised tariff structure. For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/FijianCCC>



Tribute to Mr Nikunj Vaghela - Vision Energy



SEIAPI wishes to relay its condolences to his family and the Vision Energy Team on the passing away of their General Manager - Commercial & Technical Service, Mr Nikunj Vaghela. Mr Vaghela passed on 6th December, 2025. Late Nikunj will be deeply missed by his family and Vision Energy Team where he served for 15 years. We acknowledge his contributions to the solar industry fraternity.

Solar for Sir Dudley Tuti College

Clean, 24/7 solar energy is powering up at Sir Dudley Tuti College in Solomon Islands' Isabel Province. It's the first of three sites included in the country's first project under the Australian Government-funded REnew Pacific program.

The College's new solar system is energised and in trial mode, with final programming and monitoring underway. Serving 820 students, including around 600 boarders, plus 19 staff and community houses, the solar hybrid system was installed by SEIAPI member, Superfly Limited. The team will also install solar hybrid systems at Goldie College National Secondary School and Atoifi Adventist Hospital as part of the project, delivering clean, reliable energy to schools and health facilities that will benefit up to 81,000 people. Visit: REnew Pacific facebook page.

International Conference

6th International Conference on Solar Technologies and Hybrid Mini-Grids to improve energy access
SAVE THE DATE
8-10 April 2026, Mallorca, Spain
www.energy-access-conferences.com

Standards Corner

In recent months, SEIAPI has been conducting webinars related to the current Australia and New Zealand Standards. We plan similar webinars for the USA National Electrical Code. To supplement these webinars, the newsletter includes this 'standards' corner highlighting an installation issue identified during a site visit that could be improved to meet relevant standards, SEIAPI guidelines or international best practices.



The above photo illustrates solar dc cables under the modules not properly managed. The following standard states:

- AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 4.4.3.1 c) Cables shall be installed so that they do not lie on roofs or floors without an enclosure or conduit d) are protected against abrasion, tension, compression and cutting forces that may arise from thermal cycles, wind and other forces during installation and throughout the life of the installation

Appropriate techniques must be used to manage cabling under the modules to ensure they do not lie on the roof. The following image shows a good practice in managing cables underneath the panels. SEIAPI plans to prepare a technical guide with photos to show good and poor installation methods.



For more updates, please visit
<http://www.seiapi.com> or email on
secretariat@seiapi.com. Follow us on LinkedIn -
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page

SEIAPI MARCH CONFERENCE 2026 ANNOUNCEMENT

Theme: Transitioning to Solar Energy in the Pacific Islands

After 15 years since its formation, the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI) is pleased to announce our first ever SEIAPI Conference to be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva (Fiji) on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March 2026, with the theme Transitioning to Solar Energy in the Pacific Islands.



The venue: Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva



SEIAPI supported training centre at USP Pacific TAFE

The SEIAPI Solar Conference will bring together SEIAPI members, non-members, solar and other sustainable energy companies and stakeholders for a two-day event featuring technical presentations, product exhibitions, and networking opportunities. About 100 participants are expected including energy departments from Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), key development agencies assisting PICTs with sustainable energy, financial and industry stakeholders. The conference will include presentations from local and international experts, solar companies and development agencies. There will be a small exhibition from the conference sponsors.



Buakonikai Primary School (Rabi) Courtesy Its Time Foundation

The conference aims to showcase local innovations, foster collaboration, and explore global perspectives to strengthen the Pacific's transition to sustainable energy and enhance the visibility of the Pacific's solar industry. It will address some of the key issues faced by the solar industry within the PICTs including:

- Challenges facing solar companies in the Pacific
- Policy and regulatory barriers
- Labour shortages and capacity building needs of workforce
- Pacific women in solar energy
- Case Studies
- The renewable energy transition



Tuvalu Airport Terminal: Courtesy CBS Power Solutions

The conference fee is lower for those registering early.

Early bird. Register before 28th February 2026:

FJD 300 SEIAPI members, development agencies, Government agencies, NGOs

FJD 700 Non SEIAPI Members from Industry

Late registration after 1st March 2026:

FJD 400 SEIAPI members, Development agencies, Government agencies, NGOs

FJD 800 Non SEIAPI members

The registration fee includes morning/afternoon teas, lunches and a networking reception at the end of day 1.

For further information or if you would like to register or obtain a copy of the sponsorship package, please visit: <https://www.seiapi.com/seiapiconference2026/> or contact SEIAPI on secretariat@seiapi.com