

Radio New Zealand - Te Reo Irirangi o Aotearoa

American Samoa looks at alternative energy sources to offset rising fuel prices

Posted at 10:03am on 29 Jun 2006

American Samoa's Power Authority or ASPA says the US Department of Interior is supporting its efforts to develop alternative energy sources to offset rising fuel prices.

ASPA's chief operations officer, Fonoti Perelini Perelini, says its looking at two options at the moment.

Fonoti says one option is OTEC or ocean thermal energy conversion, and the other is wind power.

He says a consultant from the US believes OTEC holds the most potential of any another energy sources for American Samoa.

Fonoti Perelini Perelini says the consultant is submitting a report to the Department of the Interior and then to Congress for funding purposes for OTEC.

He says the increasing price of fuel has led it to look at other alternative energy sources.

"Right now American Samoa uses 100 percent of diesel fuel to generate power, that's about 13 million gallons of fuel a year, which at the present cost of fuel is about 23 or 24 million US dollars of fuel every year."

Fonoti Perelini Perelini says there is funding available from Congress after US president George Bush signed last year's Energy Bill.

Copyright © 2006 Radio New Zealand International