



PIA Press Release 08/18/2005

PRESS ROOM:

- Issues Monitor
- Publications
- DG's Corner
- Video Plugs
- Radiocasts
- Palace Fotos
- PIA Albums

Government explores alternative sources of energy

Quezon City (18 August) -- Hope is in sight amidst the rising cost of fuel oil. The country's abundant renewable energy resources such as sun, wind, biomass, and geothermal energy are fast gaining attention from the Arroyo administration.

The goal is to double the renewable energy capacity by 2013 -- from the present 30 to 60 percent. To this end, the Department of Energy set the following goals:

1. To be the largest geothermal energy producer in the world
2. To be the leading wind energy producer in Southeast Asia
3. To install 130-250 MW of biomass, solar, and ocean capacity.
4. To become the solar manufacturing export hub of the Association of Southeast

Unlike gas, coal, and other oil-based products which may be depleted, renewable energy is replenished, clean, and sustainable.

The country has now power plants relying on geothermal and hydropower energy as a major source of electricity in many areas. In fact, the Philippines is the second largest geothermal energy producer in the world, behind the US.

Solar power system

Puerto Princesa City, the Philippines' cleanest and greenest city, shall continue to enjoy fresh, smog-free and unpolluted air with the expected completion of a solar utility power plant in Mangingisda Village.

When completed this year, the Sinag 1 project in Puerto Princesa promises to be the world's largest solar project. Twenty-five thousand solar panels covering 20-hectares will be installed to support the city's energy supply. The solar power system is a project of the local government, the DOE, and the Asera Group, world's leading pioneer in solar technology.

Sinag 1 project will generate 5 MW of electricity over a 20-year period, with a capacity equivalent to 550,000 barrels of oil. One megawatt can provide enough electricity to a small town of 5,000 households in rural areas.

In Mindanao, at least four solar power projects are now underway. These are:

1. The 1-MW solar farm on-grid projects in Northern Mindanao;
2. The solar power technology support project that will benefit 40 communities;
3. The USAID-funded Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy Program that will energize 60 island barangays, and
4. The construction of a manufacturing facility for solar wafers.

At present, the biggest solar project is the Philippine National Oil Company's (PNOCs) solar home system. In the past two years, it has been providing electricity to 2,160 households in the Cordillera, the Visayas, and remote areas in Mindanao. The PNOC's solar home system targets 15,000 households in 2007.

Wind power

Remote, non-electrified barangays in Ilocos Norte, will soon have electricity for the first time with the installation of the country's first wind power in Bagui Bay.

DOE's goal is to install wind-based power projects with a capacity of at least 417 MW in the next 10 years. One of these, the Bangui Bay project, will generate 25 MW. The wind power system is partly funded by the Danish International Development Agency.

The Philippines has untapped wind resources. Wind-based power is a very practical way of electrifying remote and far-flung areas that are off

Stories for the Day: 08/18/2005

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

List Stories

NEWS ARCHIVE

2002: jan feb mar apr
may jun jul aug sep oct
nov dec

2003: jan feb mar apr
may jun jul aug sep oct
nov dec

2004: jan feb mar apr
may jun jul aug sep oct
nov dec

2005: jan feb mar apr
may jun jul aug

the power grid. Potential sites are Batanes and Babuyan Islands, Ilocos Norte, Mindoro, Samar, Leyte, Panay and Negros islands, Cebu, and Palawan.

Studies of the World Wildlife Fund and the University of the Philippines cite 1,038 wind sites in the country with a potential capacity of 7,404 MW. Potential sites considered feasible for using wind energy include 686 sites in Luzon and 305 in Visayas.

Ocean wave energy

One still unexplored area that may finally be the key to energy independence is ocean wave energy. DOE's studies done in collaboration with Japanese scientists show that there are 16 potential areas for the so-called ocean thermal energy conversion.

The technology uses tidal and marine current energy to generate electricity. Worldwide, the technology is still being developed, but the Philippines may become the first to use this form of energy. The Philippines has a potential 170,000 MW of energy supply from the ocean.

Among the provinces with potential sites are Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Zambales, the Mindoro provinces, Antique, Samar, Surigao del Norte and Sur, and Davao del Sur.

Now being considered for power development are tidal current systems in the Hinatuan Passage in Surigao and San Bernardino Strait between Leyte and Samar.

Biomass energy

Negros Occidental found that there is power that can be generated from its agricultural residue like wood, straw, animal manure, rice husks, and sugar cane. Burning these agricultural wastes can generate heat, steam, and energy able to operate a 30-megawatt (MW) biomass plant. It is now providing electricity to several towns, resulting to savings worth thousands of barrels of fuel oil.

This potential, however, is still largely untapped as only two projects, generating at least 100-MW Victorias Milling and the 30 MW Talisay biogas-fueled cogeneration plants. One megawatt can provide enough electricity to a small town of 5,000 households in rural areas.

Coming up are two more biomass plants. One is that of the UK-based Bronzeoak, which operates the Talisay plant and plans to put in US\$100 million in the next three years to expand its operation. The other is an experiment project in Isabela using rice hulls to produce biomass.

The Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment and natural Resources, the Philippines has aggregate biomass supply potential of 253.8 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent in 2000. It will reach an equivalent of 301.5 million barrels of fuel oil in 2008. (PIA InfoBits, with reports from DOE/Newsbreak) [\[top\]](#)