

# Minister Lini launches National Green Energy Fund

- By Anita Roberts
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Minister Lini and newly appointed members of the National Green Climate Fund. The Director of Finance and DG of the Ministry of Climate Change as chairperson of the board are absent.

By Anita Roberts

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**The National Green Energy** Fund (NGEF) has finally been launched as an independent public entity to start sourcing funds for the Vanuatu Government and meet its energy targets.

The government is targeting 100% electrification of the whole country by 2030 and 100% renewable energy.

By 2020, 25% of rural tourism businesses will be using renewable forms of electricity and 65% by 2030.

The establishment of the NGEF was approved by the Council of Ministers (COM) to help the government achieve the targets set out in the Energy Road Map.

The NGEF Act has been gazetted after getting support from the parliament.

During the official launching this week, the Minister of Climate Change and Natural Disasters (MOCC), Ham Lini, responsible for the energy sector said, “it’s time Vanuatu stop depending on foreign aid to develop its energy sector”.

With the support of the Global Green Growth Institute, the NGEF will be financing projects with focus on electricity access, mainly in off grid areas, use of renewable energy and energy efficient products.

Minister Lini said: “The launching of NGEF will play a vital role in helping Vanuatu achieve its policy targets of 100% electricity access, 100% renewable energy sources, 14% savings from energy efficient products, and 65% of tourism bungalows using renewable energy sources by 2030”.

The NGEF is setup as a unit within the Department of Energy.

To support its roll out, COM has approved a levy to be inserted into the Port Vila and Luganville Electricity Concession. This will support several projects that will be rolled out end of this year.

After launching the NGEF, Minister Lini presented the board members with their appointment letters.

The board comprises six senior government officials and a representative from the civil society. The Director General of the MOCC as chairperson, Director of Energy as vice-chairperson, Director of Finance, Director of DSSPAC, Director of Local Authorities and Director of Women’s Affairs.

The board held its first meeting after the launching to look at its first pilot projects and to finalize the entity's business plan and operations manual.

The newly launched NGEF Unit appeals to all donor partners and development agencies in Vanuatu , and international community to contribute to the fund.