The Climate Reality Project
PHILIPPINES

SUSTAINA RUMBLE!

GEOP FROM THE SUPPLIERS AND STAKEHOLDERS' PERSPECTIVE

THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT PHILIPPINES
SUSTAINARUMBLE!

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes a two-part assessment of the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP) in the Philippines conducted by the Sustainarumble! Team with The Climate Reality Project Philippines (TCRP) through the REalize Project. It combined a detailed examination of supply-side constraints faced by the supply side of the Philippine energy value chain through the perspective of the Retail Electricity Suppliers (RES), with qualitative insights drawn from a ten-episode video podcast series featuring policymakers, businesses, civil society, and energy practitioners. Together, these two components offer a balanced and realistic understanding of GEOP, its demonstrated viability and the structural barriers that limit its scale and impact.

The first part of the report focused on the operational, regulatory, and market challenges encountered by RES companies in implementing and expanding GEOP. Its central contribution is the recognition that GEOP's limitations are largely structural rather than transitional, arising from the current design of the electricity market, grid conditions, and institutional arrangements.

A key issue identified is the growing expectation for 24/7 renewable energy supply, driven mainly by corporate net-zero and decarbonization commitments. While renewable generation costs have fallen, intermittency remains a technical reality. This creates tension between sustainability narratives and system capabilities, transferring reputational, contractual, and cost risks to RES companies. This is more glaring in smaller RES and Local RES that lack diversified portfolios or hedging capacity. Replacement power arrangements, often sourced from traditional power generation, introduce cost volatility and reputational concerns that further complicate GEOP delivery.

The report also highlighted significant institutional frictions between RES, Distribution Utilities (DUs), and Electric Cooperatives (ECs). Inconsistent technical requirements, data access issues, administrative delays, and non-standard fees increase transaction costs and slow switching processes. These fixed costs disproportionately affect the smaller private RES and Local RES, discouraging them from expanding GEOP participation and reinforcing market concentration among larger suppliers.

GEOP's voluntary nature is identified as another limiting factor. While voluntariness supports consumer choice, it concentrates demand among large customers (e.g., corporate clients) that are already contestable under existing regulations. Smaller RES face difficulties scaling participation due to regulatory overhead, limited demand aggregation, and competition from more flexible mechanisms such as Retail Competition and Open Access (RCOA), which does not require 100% renewable sourcing.

Additional constraints include off-taker preference for contracting with a single RES to simplify governance and accountability. These include grid and transmission limitations that restrict renewable energy availability for retail contracting, and the exclusion of tenants in leased facilities, which prevents large electricity users (e.g., BPOs, data centers from exercising GEOP choice despite strong demand and ESG pressure. Collectively, these factors explain why GEOP has yet to consistently trigger new renewable energy capacity and remains a niche mechanism rather than a system-wide driver of supply expansion.

The second part of the report synthesizes insights from ten video podcast episodes from the RealTalk Podcast series that document how GEOP is understood and experienced by stakeholders across the energy ecosystem. This section serves a complementary function. Rather than diagnosing constraints, it builds legitimacy, confidence, and narrative momentum around GEOP.

Historical and policy-focused discussions demonstrate that large-scale renewable energy adoption is not unprecedented in the Philippines and is aligned with national energy security and decarbonization goals.

Government perspectives position GEOP as a strategic demand-side instrument that empowers consumers while signaling investment demand for renewables.

Business case studies such as manufacturing, banking, and consumer goods, provide concrete proof that GEOP adoption can deliver around 10-40% electricity cost savings, significant emissions reductions, ESG and audit readiness, and reputational benefits without significant operational disruption. These examples counter persistent misconceptions that renewable energy is expensive or unreliable.

Demand-side analyses reveal a consistent pattern of low awareness but high willingness to participate in GEOP once the program is understood, indicating that information gaps and misconceptions are the primary barriers to uptake. Practitioner and civil-society perspectives further frame GEOP within broader themes of public health, community benefit, workforce transition, and long-term national competitiveness.

Taken together, the two parts of the report present GEOP as a proven but structurally constrained policy instrument. The supply-side analysis explains why rational market actors proceed cautiously under current conditions, while the podcast narratives demonstrate why GEOP remains attractive, credible, and worth scaling. The report ultimately suggests that GEOP's future success will depend less on further promotion and more on targeted reforms that reduce institutional friction, improve supply reliability, broaden access, and strengthen the link between growing demand and new renewable energy investment.

II

UNDERSTANDING GEOP THROUGH SUPPLIER AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS: AN INTRODUCTION

The Sustainarumble! Podcast worked extensively with The Climate Reality Project Philippines (TCRP) to understand how it could be better promoted from the perspective of present and potential stakeholders throughout the course of 2024 and 2025, in pursuit of seeking opportunities to promote the Green Energy Option Program of the Department of Energy. This report is part of the continuing engagements under TCRP's REalize Project on clean energy and low carbon transition.

Understanding GEOP through the team's collaboration with TCRP started in 2024, where the demand side of GEOP was explored through a survey of businesses to understand if they were fully acquainted with the program and identify what their needs are if they want to participate in the program.

However, fully understanding the needs of the program also requires the discovery of the needs of the supply side on how they too can work with off-takers to better deliver on GEOP on their side. Particularly, what initiatives, mechanisms, and programs would be prioritized to ensure that progress in implementing GEOP would be sustained and be more successful.

In addition, the team worked with TCRP on how to create better means of communicating GEOP and simplifying the intricacies of the program through the power of modern media creation. This is so that more Filipinos would know more about the program and work with both the government and the Retail Electricity Suppliers (RES) that sell renewable electricity through GEOP, with the aim on not just introducing clean energy in their businesses but also to reduce electricity costs and have the means to expand their businesses.

This report, therefore, seeks to highlight the needs of RES companies on GEOP, and gather insights from stakeholders on their experiences with GEOP through video podcast creation. In particular:

a. Understand the needs of Retail Electricity Suppliers (RES) on the challenges that they face in promoting and utilizing GEOP; and

b. Understand how GEOP is beneficial in the eyes of the various stakeholders that have experience with GEOP, from analysts, government, and off-takers.

III

APPROACHES CONDUCTED IN THE PROJECT

The project proponents examined the focus of GEOP suppliers and stakeholders through different approaches.

The first was through discussions with RES companies on understanding what the issues are on their end in implementing GEOP, to try to respond to the question of what more can be done to effectively promote and eventually enroll more contestable customers as defined by current regulations of the government to this initiative. This involved interviewing professionals working for RES companies through various energy forums over the course of late 2024 and 2025. The responses were noted and analyzed, and a summary of insights was determined.

The second was through engaging with various GEOP-related stakeholders in appreciating how the program can help accelerate the low-carbon transition envisioned by the latest Philippine Energy Plan while ensuring stable and reliable energy supply and cheaper electricity. This included examples from companies that have switched to GEOP, and the benefits that they have enjoyed because of the switch. The responses were recorded through ten (10) RealTalk video podcast episodes produced by the team in 2025.

IV

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY RES COMPANIES: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS CONDUCTED

As GEOP becomes a more viable option for contestable consumers, and with the reforms in opening up the market to make GEOP more viable, challenges remain in expanding GEOP access from the supply side of the whole value chain at a national level. As such, six challenges were distinctly identified by the RES community in expanding GEOP access.

A. LACK OF 24/7 SUPPLY AVAILABILITY FROM ELECTRICITY SUPPLY GENERATORS

Though there have been reforms instituted to make GEOP more commercially viable, issues on 24/7 availability have been a concern from off-takers. RES companies are expected by off-takers to ensure that they have 24/7 renewable energy supply. Specifically, off-takers that have net-zero or decarbonization commitments want this to happen to reduce or even eliminate purchased electricity emissions or Scope 2 emissions, which may constitute a large source of overall carbon emissions output for their companies.

This creates tension between technical realities and sustainability narratives. Managing this complication requires portfolio diversification, hedging capability, and transparent communication and can be managed by larger RES (e.g., ACEN RES, First Gen), but not on smaller RES or LRES.

If not continuous RE supply, they are expected to have continuous electricity delivery even when renewable generation is unavailable, which leads to replacement power arrangements. This may lead to cost volatility, contractual complexity, and reputational risk, particularly when sourced from traditional energy generation.

B. TECHNICAL ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN THE RES AND THE DUS AND ECS

Overall, technical arrangements with DUs and ECs are also complicated and need to be streamlined. Issues such as data access and metering standards and requirements vary across Distribution Utilities and Electric Cooperatives in creating the switch to GEOP. Delays, non-standard formats, and administrative fees are common for DUs or ECs that may not have a large GEOP or even RCOA (Retail Competition and Open Access) base and therefore may have little experience in the switching procedures that are needed to convert to GEOP. This is more glaring for Local RES as they see that these challenges represent fixed costs that are difficult to account for due to limited customer portfolios.

Local RES also face more complications compared to commercial RES in terms of experience. They operate in fewer locations, have limited access to renewable energy supply providers, other DUs or ECs, or off-takers close to or within their areas, lack diversified portfolios, and possess weaker financial performances compared to commercial RES. A single delayed project, uncooperative DU or EC, or electricity curtailment event can destabilize their entire GEOP portfolio. As a result, many Local RES under-participate in GEOP by design, prioritizing financial viability rather than GEOP portfolio expansion.

C. COMPLICATIONS DUE TO THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF GEOP

Under current regulations, GEOP demand remains voluntary and currently concentrated among large corporates which are usually the most likely the ones that are considered contestable by law. This mismatch discourages smaller RES from scaling participation as they may not be able to meet the needs of the ones that really want to participate in the initiative. In addition, DOE permitting, ERC licensing and prudential requirements, market registration, and DU/EC agreements make things more complicated for smaller RES companies from scaling participation.

The reduction in threshold in RCOA requirements also may cause complications, as more companies may consider this over GEOP over issues in supply. This is because unlike in GEOP where the requirement is 100% renewable energy, RCOA is more flexible, and therefore considered a more stable and cheaper option. This also means that GEOP is less favored than RCOA by a significantly wide margin.

D. ISSUES ON SINGLE VS MULTIPLE RES FOR SUPPLY CONTRACTING

On the demand side, most GEOP off-takers exhibit a strong preference for contracting with a single RES to simplify engagements when it comes to power contracting. Electricity procurement is rarely a core capability for non-energy firms as these issues are not common in operations that may not involve energy-intensive industries such as manufacturing, though they understand that this is also a sustainability matter and could be pursued further if the opportunities are available.

Managing multiple RES suppliers by off-takers also increases internal transaction costs, complicates sustainability assurance, and diffuses accountability therefore leading to more operational risks that the company may not want to take.

Multi-RES strategies rare and are limited to large, energy-sophisticated buyers with multi-site operations or explicit diversification mandates. This limited marginal benefit, as grid reliability is already guaranteed and renewable energy claims can be met through a single supplier.

E. SUPPLY AND TRANSMISSION CONSTRAINTS

Linking the issue of 24/7 Renewable Energy Supply availability, concerns on supply, transmission, and prioritization also complicates GEOP expansion on the supply side.

Much renewable capacity exists based on DOE data, but far less is suitable for retail contracting due to grid constraints, contractual commitments, and intermittency risks. This is more prevalent in Visayas and Mindanao, where GEOP introduction in more recent and the demand for enrollment has yet to be fully realized.

As GEOP is voluntary, subject to switching risks that may not be fully understood by smaller RES companies and DUs/ECs, and fragmented, developers prefer long-term utility power supply agreements or private PPAs with anchor off-takers. GEOP rarely triggers new renewable energy expansion and becomes a lower priority and incentive to build more.

Grid congestion further constrains renewable expansion. Interconnection queues are long, transmission upgrades lag, and curtailment risk is rising. As such, priority flows in periods of RE supply scarcity to long-term, firm buyers and not to GEOP users.

F. ISSUES FOR COMPANIES THAT LEASE FACILITIES BUT HAVE LARGE RE REQUIREMENTS

One of GEOP's most consequential blind spots is its exclusion of tenants in leased premises. GEOP eligibility is tied to the electricity end-user of record at the primary meter. In most commercial buildings, landlords or building administrators hold DU/EC accounts, while tenants pay through sub-metering or bundled charges.

As a result, even large electricity users lack legal control over supply contracts and cannot exercise GEOP choice. This design flaw disproportionately affects BPOs and data centers, which are characterized by large, stable, 24/7 loads and strong ESG pressure from multinational clients.

Building owners and landlords bear the operational and coordination risk of switching supply but receive little direct benefit from tenants' renewable claims. Absent regulatory incentives, most landlords rationally avoid restructuring electricity arrangements.

V

APPROACHES ON HOW TO FURTHER PROMOTE GEOP ON THE SUPPLY SIDE: PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Despite the positive benefits that programs such as GEOP can offer, challenges remain on effective implementation from power supply issues to grid-related challenges. The following are therefore recommended to expand GEOP access:

RECOMMENDATION	EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION (1-EASY, 5-DIFFICULT)	LEVEL OF IMPACT (1-LOW, 5-HIGH)
Encourage supply-side stakeholders and investors through effective dialogue and consultations to speed up or diversify their RE portfolios and investments, and make GEOP more enticing for those who are not looking into the program.	2	3
Encourage dialogue between RES, government, and DUs/ECs about the arrangements on GEOP alignments and assure the DUs and ECs that they will still have a good size of the energy market.	2	3
Guide Local RES on how they can work on GEOP and its benefits. Awareness campaigns and more dialogues with LRES and power generators in the provinces should be conducted.	3	5
Encourage government and the energy industry to set policies for multi-RE supply sourcing for GEOP and engage with consumers on how they can avail themselves of more than one RE supplier.	2	5
Set up safer and more reliable ESS sources to ensure better 24/7 RE supply.	5	4
Develop policies further develop arrangements for companies that lease facilities but want to avail of GEOP.	3	3
Encourage innovation in finding solutions to issues, such as offshore wind, floating solar, RoR Hydro, geothermal expansion, biomass/waste-to-energy, etc.	3	4

VI

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY RES COMPANIES: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS CONDUCTED

Perspectives were gained about how GEOP is gaining significance across the energy community, government, and even private businesses that have switched to the program for their renewable energy needs. Over the course of ten (10) podcast episodes, perspectives, experiences, and thoughts on GEOP were shared through various speakers invited by the project team. These insights are:

EPISODE 1: REFRAMING THE PHILIPPINE ENERGY TRANSITION

The pilot episode of the Real Talk Podcast offered a historically grounded and policy-relevant discussion on the Philippine energy transition. the episode challenges the notion that large-scale renewable energy adoption is unprecedented or impractical for the country.

Energy transition expert Alberto “Bert” Dalusong III from the Institute of Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) emphasized the value of historical perspective. He mentioned that in the early 1970s, the Philippines was highly dependent on oil for power generation. Following the global oil shocks, the government centralized energy planning and empowered state-owned entities, leading to a rapid transition. The result of this was that in 1979, the power mix was already 25% renewable, then eventually led more than 50% five years later. This achievement relied on complex technologies such as hydro and geothermal, demonstrating the country’s capacity for rapid transformation.

The discussion then compared this success with today’s situation, where over 60% of our power mix comes from coal, and less than 25% from renewables. This, he believed, is a serious energy security risk, stressing that it is important that the goal of energy planning is supply security. Coal, as an imported commodity, exposes the Philippines to volatile prices and geopolitical disruption.

He also pointed out that the myth that renewable energy is expensive is not true since generation prices for renewables right now are cheaper than coal. Solar energy, now the cheapest source of power for example, can with peak demand and displaces the most expensive generation. Expanding options such as offshore wind and baseload-scale renewables will make a stronger economic and technical case for renewables.

Mr. Dalusong, towards the end, reminded the listeners that, "we already achieved a 50% renewable energy share once - 40 years ago." The Philippines can achieve that again with coherent policy and institutional alignment.

EPISODE 2: WHY GEOP?: AN INTRODUCTION

The second episode presented a concise yet compelling case for GEOP through the insights of Ian Soqueño, former Energy Program Lead of the Climate Reality Project Philippines.

GEOP, as Ian notes, was framed as a structural shift that empowers large electricity consumers to move away from a captive market and directly source clean power, emphasizing that the Program allowed eligible entities to switch from being a captive market to sourcing their electricity directly from 100% renewable energy.

Central to this message is the emphasis of the consumer, as GEOP gives businesses the power of choice over where their electricity comes from while keeping the grid intact or with no changes in transmission and distribution to the consumer, since "the only thing that essentially changes is who supplies the consumer's power generation. The discussion grounded this principle in tangible outcomes, noting that early adopters have achieved between 10 to 40 percent reduction in electricity costs with millions of pesos annually in terms of savings. He put it in this way, "if your electricity bill is one million pesos a month, even a conservative 20 percent reduction is already PHP 200,000 in savings."

Beyond cost, the episode highlighted reputational and operational benefits for power-intensive institutions such as hotels, factories, and hospitals, where savings can be redirected to core services that benefit their customers.

The conversation also gave notable downsides by acknowledging constraints, such as eligibility thresholds that exclude households, off-grid areas that remain outside the program's reach, and the outpacing of demand for renewable energy than the number of renewable energy suppliers. These limits are presented not as failures but as signals of a maturing market as the building of demand without expanding supply risks consumer and supplier frustration but also sends a strong signal to investors and government that there is indeed interest for GEOP and should be expanded.

Ian closed his thoughts by saying that GEOP as a credible proof-of-concept that really shows that large-scale renewable energy is already viable in the Philippines, reinforcing the broader takeaway that renewable energy is not only cleaner but also cheaper while underscoring the urgency of scaling supply, modernizing the grid, and aligning policy to sustain the country's energy transition.

EPISODE 3: HOW W HYDROCOLLOIDS BENEFITTED FROM GEOP ADOPTION

The third episode presented a compelling real-world case study of renewable energy adoption in Philippine manufacturing, using W Hydrocolloids as a concrete example of how sustainability, operational reliability, and financial performance can align. Plant Manager Jhannice Fababaer shared her insights as speaker.

W Hydrocolloids traced the company's journey from initial awareness of renewable energy that was prompted by regulatory compliance (e.g., Renewable Portfolio Standards, Supplier Accreditations) from local and overseas, and internal group initiatives on sustainability as part of a global supply chain, to full adoption of the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP) as a way to achieve the company's goals.

The company emphasized deliberate planning, expert engagement, and stakeholder alignment as critical success factors. This led to measurable benefits, including a 10–15% reduction in electricity costs and an estimated 80% decrease in carbon emissions, achieved without any disruption to its 24/7 manufacturing operations. This experience then thereby challenges the persistent perception that renewable energy is costly or unreliable for energy-intensive industries.

The discussion also emphasized the role of renewable energy within broader strategic considerations such as ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) audits, sustainable procurement requirements, export market competitiveness, and brand reputation. To the company, this demonstrated that the transition delivers value beyond regulatory compliance. Furthermore, the integration of sustainability into internal KPIs, employee education, and community engagement reflects mature governance and cultural embedding, while subsequent investments in on-site solar energy underscore a long-term commitment to decarbonization.

Overall, the Company shared that initiatives such as GEOP are a good sustainability narrative and offered practical insights and a replicable roadmap for other Philippine companies seeking to translate renewable energy from policy aspiration into tangible business advantages.

EPISODE 4: BPI ON RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION AND GEOP ADOPTION

The fifth episode of the podcast featured the experiences of the Bank of the Philippine Islands' efforts on sustainability, RE development and GEOP adoption through BPI Vice President and Sustainability head Jo Ann Eala, Sustainability Officer Nathaniel Barreto and Facilities lead Mark Tedoro.

They discussed how BPI is approaching sustainability as a business strategy, initially through informal integration from Ayala leadership values in the 1980s, which then were formalized in 2008 through partnerships with organizations such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC). BPI has funded 417 sustainability projects across renewable energy, energy efficiency, green buildings, and sustainable agriculture, and especially supporting SMEs through free technical consultations and strict standards to ensure projects deliver real, measurable savings and long-term viability.

BPI then shared their experiences in operationally shifting to renewable energy through the GEOP, where BPI converted three buildings to 100% renewable electricity beginning in 2022 and with a fourth one underway. They emphasized that the transition is largely hassle-free with no power disruption and minimal technical changes.

While they did admit that the cost savings vary depending on market timing and supply, the speakers stressed that for the Company, the stronger value is in reduced carbon footprint, improved resilience, stakeholder credibility, and regulatory readiness.

In the end, they argued that sustainability should not be treated as a heroic act, but as a practical choice that strengthens profitability, stability, and long-term business success.

EPISODE 5: GEOP AND RE BENEFITS BEYOND JUST SAVINGS: THE URATEX PERSPECTIVE

The fifth episode presented the experience of local mattress manufacturer Uratex on GEOP through the eyes of Sustainability Lead Lili Tumlod and Corporate Engineering Head Jomar Dalmaso. The speakers shared the case that a Filipino manufacturing brand can systematically embedded renewable energy and environmental responsibility into its long-term business strategy through initiatives such as this initiative.

Uratex's renewable energy transition journey was considered to be in line with its broader corporate history, values, and social commitments. They emphasized that sustainability is not a recent trend for the company but an extension of decades-long community engagement, resilience, and responsible leadership.

The company also shared its journey to renewable energy utilization, from early solar PV investments as early as 2016, to participation in RCOA, and ultimately to large-scale adoption through GEOP. Such actions resulted in the conversion of approximately 55% of total electricity consumption, or approximately 15 million kWh, due to the shift to renewable energy sources.

The transition generated substantial and quantifiable business benefits, including annual electricity cost savings of approximately PHP 1.5 million across multiple factories, which are then reinvested into equipment upgrades, operational efficiency, and further renewable energy expansion.

They also noted the significance of cultural and reputational impacts due to GEOP and the renewable energy transition. RE adoption led to strengthened employee morale, inspired grassroots sustainability initiatives within plants, and enhanced Uratex's standing among customers and business partners who view the company as a credible, sustainability-driven Filipino brand.

They stressed the importance of governance and leadership in these initiatives, highlighting the role of top-management commitment, cross-functional sustainability teams, and evidence-based decision-making in overcoming regulatory and implementation challenges.

At the end, the speakers shared that sustainability initiatives such as GEOP should not be not be treated merely as a compliance mechanism, but as a strategic growth lever that supports profitability, environmental stewardship, and organizational cohesion, offering a replicable roadmap for other Philippine manufacturers seeking to align business expansion with long-term climate responsibility.

EPISODE 6: WHAT IS NEEDED IN GEOP FROM THE VIEW OF DEMAND?

The sixth episode presented an evidence-based discussion on the demand-side challenges and opportunities of the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP), drawing from the Re-energize PH Survey conducted by TCRP in 2024. TCRP's findings were shared by former TCRP Communications Officer MJ San Juan.

The results of the survey showed that there was a distinct disconnect between low awareness and high willingness among Philippine business entities. Specifically, while around 75% of respondents were initially unfamiliar with GEOP, an overwhelming 95% expressed intent to participate once the program was explained to them.

It also revealed that businesses commonly perceive renewable energy as expensive and infrastructure-heavy, often assuming that solar installation is the only pathway. This is despite the fact GEOP enables access to 100% renewable energy without upfront capital costs. It further distinguished between real barriers such as the 100-kW demand threshold and limited accredited suppliers, and misconceptions, including fears about power reliability and complex registration processes, which are largely managed by renewable energy suppliers.

MJ shared the importance of broader goals of a just energy transition that is anchored on the ideas of accessibility, reliability, and affordability. GEOP could then be utilized as a high-potential but under-communicated policy mechanism whose success depends on stronger information dissemination, supply-side scaling, and coordinated action among government, suppliers, civil society, and businesses.

Overall, MJ underscored that accelerating GEOP uptake is less a question of business resistance and more a challenge of awareness, market readiness, and systemic alignment.

EPISODE 7: WHY SHOULD BUSINESSES ENROLL IN GEOP?

The seventh episode featured TCRP Energy Program Lead Pocholo “Poch” Enriquez who offered positive arguments on the benefits of GEOP through his ongoing research on renewable energy.

He shared that the assessments made led to the idea that energy is the country’s most critical lever in the country’s decarbonization ambitions by sifting through complex data and converting them into terms that are more relatable to stakeholders. He presented GEOP as a practical, low-capital pathway for businesses, particularly in real estate, manufacturing, food and beverage, and hospitals, to cut Scope 2 emissions and reduce electricity costs.

Drawing from a 2024 TCRP GEOP Study, he highlighted substantial emissions reductions compared to a business-as-usual scenario, average cost savings, immediate financial and emissions benefits, and high program retention. He also acknowledged real constraints such as regional concentration in Luzon, renewable supply limitations, and policy issues around aggregation and replacement power.

Poch shared towards the end the need for clearer definitions of units, baselines, and methodology in adopting and utilizing GEOP as a route for renewable energy sourcing would strengthen credibility for more technical or policy-focused audiences.

EPISODE 8: GEOP FROM A GOVERNMENT POLICY PERSPECTIVE

The eighth episode provided a comprehensive policy-level overview of the Philippines’ renewable energy transition, situating the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP) within the broader vision and targets of the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP).

The eighth episode provided a comprehensive policy-level overview of the Philippines' renewable energy transition, situating the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP) within the broader vision and targets of the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP).

Through an in-depth discussion with DOE Senior Science Research Specialist Angelica Delos Santos, the conversation outlined the country's ambition to achieve 35% renewable energy in the power generation mix by 2030 and 50% by 2040. The discussion also talked about current progress, structural gaps, and emerging opportunities.

Angelica shared how demand-side mechanisms such as GEOP, net metering, and expanded rooftop solar are designed to empower consumers and businesses to directly participate in decarbonization. She highlighted key incentives including cost reductions, sustainability branding, and the forthcoming value of renewable energy certificates (RECs).

She also tackled the issue of persistent adoption barriers, such as the 100-kilowatt eligibility threshold, limited supplier capacity, and awareness gaps. She highlighted that the government is introducing policy reforms under consideration, notably aggregation mechanisms that would allow smaller consumers to collectively qualify for GEOP.

Grid integration, the extension of GEOP to Mindanao, and the growing role of geothermal, offshore wind, energy storage, and emerging technologies in ensuring reliable 24/7 renewable supply were also discussed.

Angelica overall revealed that GEOP is not merely as a consumer choice but as a strategic national tool for investment signaling, emissions reduction, and long-term energy security. Accelerated adoption will ultimately depend on coordinated policy reform, infrastructure readiness, and sustained public–private collaboration.

EPISODE 9: GEOP IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABILITY FOR BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES

The ninth episode focused on the insights from Sustainarumble co-host Jonas, in his capacity as a corporate sustainability practitioner. He provided a reflective, values-driven perspective by examining renewable energy adoption as a social, economic, and moral imperative, rather than merely a technical or regulatory compliance decision.

Through a wide-ranging dialogue, the conversation examined the shift to renewable energy and initiatives under it such as GEOP, as essential to addressing the Philippines' interconnected challenges of high electricity costs, environmental degradation, public health risks, and long-term economic competitiveness.

Drawing from practitioner experience, Jonas highlighted how renewable energy can deliver triple-bottom-line value by lowering operating costs and enabling reinvestment in people and technology. This, he exclaimed, can improve other issues such as community health by reducing pollution-related risks, build up consumer trust, improve talent attraction, and strengthen consumer loyalty, especially among younger generations.

He also touched on renewable energy within a broader systems perspective, emphasizing that GEOP and similar initiatives as a way to gain an advantage in supply-chain competitiveness in Southeast Asia, increase investor confidence, and provide further resilience against external economic shocks linked to energy such as fossil fuel price volatility.

He stressed importance of just energy transition principles by agreeing with what MJ San Juan shared in episode six, while advocating for dialogue, retraining, and inclusive stakeholder engagement to avoid social disruption as industries decarbonize.

Ultimately, Jonas argued that scaling renewable energy nationally depends on driving demand to unlock supply, positioning GEOP and similar mechanisms as natural market enablers rather than forced interventions, and framing the energy transition as a collective, values and culture-aligned movement capable of reshaping Philippine industry and society over the long term.

EPISODE 10: EPILOGUE

The final episode, with former TCRP Branch Manager Nazrin Camille Castro, centered on how renewable energy adoption through initiatives such as GEOP, is being scaled through advocacy, communication, and policy engagement. Emphasis was provided on the role of TCRP on advocating for clean and affordable power for all.

Nazrin highlighted that GEOP does offer clear economic and environmental benefits, such as reported electricity cost reductions of around 34% and translating to approximately PHP 300,000 in monthly savings for some switchers. However, the program's broader impact is dependent on sustained awareness-building and institutional support.

She explained how TCRP evolved from simple information campaigns into a movement-building approach, combining research, stakeholder dialogues, roadshows, and volunteer mobilization to correct misconceptions about renewable energy reliability, costs, and implementation. Particular emphasis was placed on expanding GEOP access beyond large private companies to public facilities such as hospitals, schools, and local government units, where savings can directly translate into improved public services and healthcare outcomes.

She also shared TCRP's ongoing policy efforts, including aggregation mechanisms to allow smaller consumers to collectively meet the 100-kilowatt threshold and initiatives to attract more renewable energy suppliers into the program.

Naz framed GEOP as a people-centered policy instrument that links cleaner energy to healthier communities, job creation, and public-sector efficiency. Yet, underscoring that lasting impact will require deeper cross-agency coordination, supplier expansion, and continued grassroots engagement to turn renewable energy adoption into a nationwide norm rather than an environmentally-linked niche.

VII
KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE VIDEO PODCAST EPISODES

From the ten episodes, it can be determined that:

1. GEOP IS PROOF THAT LARGE-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY ADOPTION IN THE PHILIPPINES IS BOTH FEASIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY RATIONAL

Across historical analyses, policy discussion, and real-world case studies, the speakers provided perspectives that go against the misconception that renewable energy is expensive or impractical. Their experiences showed that renewables are already cheaper in many cases, and can reliably serve industrial-scale demand. This means that RE, through initiatives such as GEOP, can demonstrate that effective, and eventually, just energy transition is achievable with the right institutional and policy alignments.

2. GEOP IS AN EXAMPLE OF POSITIVE STRUCTURAL MARKET REFORM THAT EMPOWERS CONSUMERS

The enticing idea that GEOP does not require new transmission or distribution infrastructure for end-users, but rather simply changes the source of power generation, is a good choice offering for consumers. This enables eligible businesses to exit the captive market, exercise choice over their electricity supply, and access 100% renewable energy with minimal operational disruption that often results in 10-40% electricity cost savings over time.

3. BUSINESS CASE STUDIES SHOW GEOP DELIVERS SHARED ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL VALUE

Experiences from W Hydrocolloids, BPI, and Uratex showed that GEOP adoption delivers measurable emissions reductions, operational resilience, ESG and audit readiness, stronger brand credibility, and improved employee engagement. These cases reposition renewable energy from a compliance exercise into a strategic lever for competitiveness, risk management, and long-term value creation.

4. DEMAND FOR GEOP IS HIGH, BUT AWARENESS AND SUPPLY-SIDE CONSTRAINTS REMAIN KEY BOTTLENECKS

Survey evidence emphasized while most businesses are initially unfamiliar with GEOP, overwhelming interest emerges once it is explained. Actual barriers lie less in resistance and more in limited supplier capacity, eligibility thresholds, geographic concentration, and persistent misconceptions about cost and reliability. This highlights the need for coordinated communication and market scaling.

5. GEOP IS POSITIONED AS A STRATEGIC NATIONAL TOOL FOR ENERGY SECURITY, DECARBONIZATION, AND A JUST TRANSITION.

From both government and civil-society perspectives, GEOP is framed not merely as a consumer option but as an investment signal and policy instrument aligned with national targets. Its long-term success depends on policy reforms such as aggregation, grid modernization, supplier expansion, and inclusive transition strategies that extend benefits to SMEs, public institutions, and communities.

ABOUT THE PROJECT TEAM

Christopher Klein Asinas, more commonly known around as CK, is a tech and sustainability professional. He is currently a Social Impact Project Manager at Oracle NetSuite, helping nonprofits globally to maximize digital technology for overall business growth, and was a former Business Development Executive and Product Manager at two local fintech startups that enabled charities and cooperative institutions to raise funds and digitize using Software-as-a-Service (SaaS). He co-created SUSTAINARUMBLE, a research and communication entity that works with companies, organizations, civil society, and government to develop their capacity to meet their sustainability aspirations. It is recognized as a member of the Stakeholders' Chamber for Sustainable Development Goals, a synergistic program by the National Economic and Development Authority whose objective is to steer the Philippines towards meeting its critical sustainability targets – localized from the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its targets and indicators. Since the start of his professional career, he has been actively engaged in various tech, business, and sustainability initiatives as a speaker, mentor, and judge. Outside the hustle and bustle, he is a World Obstacle Course Racing Level 2 coach and loves trail running.

Ynna Abigail Olvida has a background in project management and administration, stakeholder engagement, and research across the public and private sectors. She currently serves as a Consultant for ADB's Energy Transition team, where she supports regional initiatives on industrial decarbonization under the Asia Zero Emissions Community (AZEC). Her work spans coordination with foreign ministries and international organizations, development of knowledge products, and support in the facilitation of major internal and high-level external events. Prior to her current role, Ynna held positions in business development and sales planning, contributing to ESG strategy, regulatory compliance, and customer engagement in the renewable energy sector and the Philippine retail electricity sector. She was a full scholar of the ASEAN MBA in Sustainability Management program, jointly hosted by Universitas Gadjah Mada and the University of Agder and earned her degree on Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Jonas Marie Dumdum works as Senior Consultant under the Industry Solutions Consulting (ISC) Sector of Nomura Research Institute Singapore Pte Ltd Manila Branch, handling questions related to environment, energy, and sustainability. He is also a Registered Chemist, Climate Reality Leader, Sustainability Practitioner, and a Renewable Energy Advocate. Jonas is an Associate Member (AICD) of the Institute of Corporate Directors Philippines, and Vice Chairperson of the ICD Sustainability Committee. He also serves as a member of the Scientific Consultative Panel of the Philippine Sustainability Reporting Committee. He is a co-founder and co-host of the Sustainarumble! Podcast, the first podcast in the Philippines that tackles issues on sustainability at the national level. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and a Master of Science in Renewable Energy and Resource Management at the University of South Wales.

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