

Company: Manila Electric Company

Company Description: Meralco is the largest private sector electric distribution utility company in the Philippines covering 39 cities and 72 municipalities. Its franchise area of over 9,685 km² is just 3% of the total land area of the Philippines, but accounts for 55% of the country's electricity output.

Nomination Category: Sustainability Categories

Nomination Sub Category: Sustainability Initiative of the Year - in Asia, Australia and New Zealand

Nomination Title: Meralco Greening The Network

1. Which will you submit for your nomination in this category, a video of up to five (5) minutes in length about the achievements of the nominated organization since 1 January 2023, OR written answers to the questions for this category? (Choose one):

Written answers to the questions

2. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the nominated video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video.

3. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this first question: Briefly describe the nominated organization: its history and past performance (up to 200 words):

Total 195 words used.

Now on its 122nd year, Meralco is the Philippines' largest electric distribution utility, and its franchise area is the seat of economic, political, and social activity in the country. It provides energy to 39 cities and 72 municipalities and serves over eight million customers, which collectively account for half of the country's GDP.

Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, Meralco is also involved in power generation, after-the-meter services like energy efficiency, and beyond-energy services such as digital payments, engineering, construction, logistics, and telecommunications.

Meralco's vision is to be a world-class energy solutions provider. Its mission is to provide customers the best-value energy solutions—reliably, affordably, superbly, and sustainably. Its corporate values are excellence, customer centricity, sustainability, integrity, innovation, *malasakit* (caring for others), and *bayanihan* (community spirit). Meralco is committed to ensuring that electricity continually flows from the grid to its customers—to light up homes and offices, power industries, and energize the economy.

Meralco has placed sustainability at the heart of its business by establishing its sustainability agenda—"Powering the Good Life"—which is deeply rooted in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and is marked by a distinctive focus on four pillars: Power, Planet, People, and Prosperity.

4. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this second question: Outline the organization's achievements since the beginning of 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words):

Total 249 words used.

Meralco's Greening the Network (GTN) program—anchored on SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production—aims to transform the company's electric distribution infrastructure into a more sustainable, future-ready grid by eliminating non-sustainable compounds and integrating renewable energy:

Natural Ester Oil (NEO) Deployment

- Deployed nearly 48,000 NEO-filled distribution transformers—now comprising almost 20% of Meralco's fleet. NEO, a 99% biodegradable insulating fluid derived from renewable crops like soybean and corn, offers improved fire safety and reduced environmental impact compared with mineral oil.
- Installed Meralco's first ester-filled power transformer and 12 NEO-insulated automatic voltage regulators—accelerating the shift to cleaner substation equipment.

SF₆ Management

- Maintained an exceptionally low SF₆ leakage rate at 0.30%—well below the 0.50% industry threshold—while initiating replacements with greener switchgear to reduce emissions of the world's most potent GHG.

Battery Innovation

- Upgraded 8 substations by replacing lead-acid batteries with safer, longer-lasting lithium iron phosphate (LFP) units—toward 100% LFP adoption by 2030.

Creosote Phaseout

- Replaced over 7,000 creosote-treated wooden poles—eliminating nearly 2M kg of this toxic preservative—toward 100% transition to concrete and steel poles by 2035.

Plastic Waste Reduction

- Piloted biodegradable meter bags—toward 100% plastic-free meter bags by 2029.

Renewable Energy (RE) Integration

- Interconnected RE capacity of 729MW to the network through embedded generators, net metering facilities, microgrids, and battery energy storage systems—toward 1.5GW total by 2027.

Through GTN, Meralco is accelerating the holistic transformation of its power distribution system—integrating sustainability and innovation to meet the demands of a low-carbon future.

5. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this third question: Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other players in your industry and/or to the organization's past performance (up to 250 words):

Total 240 words used.

Meralco's GTN program stands out in the Philippine energy sector for its strategic foresight, scale, and speed in embedding sustainability into the core of its power distribution system:

Largest Deployment of Eco-friendly Transformers

- With nearly 48,000 NEO-filled distribution transformers installed—covering almost 20% of its network—Meralco leads in replacing mineral oil with a biodegradable, crop-based alternative.

Industry-Leading SF₆ Management

- While other utilities aim for basic compliance to industry thresholds, Meralco maintains a best-in-class 0.30% leakage rate of this most potent GHG and is proactively phasing in low-emission alternatives.

Pioneering Battery Innovation

- Despite the prevalence of lead-acid systems due to cost and legacy use, Meralco has begun shifting to safer, longer-lasting LFP batteries—upgrading 8 substations and targeting full adoption by 2030.

Accelerated Phaseout of Toxic Creosote

- The replacement of over 7,000 creosote-treated wooden poles in one year signals a swift shift toward 100% concrete and steel poles by 2035—well ahead of typical industry timelines.

Breakthrough in Plastic Waste Reduction

- Meralco is advancing toward 100% plastic-free meter accessories by 2029 through the pilot use of biodegradable meter bags—complementing a company-wide ban on single-use plastics under its Race to Zero Waste program.

Major Boost to Renewable Energy Growth

- With 729MW of enabled RE capacity and a target of 1.5GW by 2027, Meralco continues to advance the nation's clean energy transition.

Together, these milestones reflect Meralco's visionary leadership in building a smarter, cleaner, and more sustainable energy future for the country.

6. You have the option to answer this final question: Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words):



Attachments/Videos/Links:

[Meralco Greening The Network](#)

[REDACTED FOR PUBLICATION]