

## First private fuel imports and new incentives for renewables



*Cuba has introduced new incentives for the expansion of renewable energies (source: [Granma](#)/KI-scaled)*

For the first time in around two months, new fuel has arrived in Cuba despite the US energy blockade. As the Spanish news agency *EFE* [has reported](#), the tanker Nicos I.V. docked in Matanzas Bay on February 17. The origin and quantity of the fuel delivered are unclear. The ship, sailing under the flag of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, is believed to have delivered a government order on the [spot market](#).

It is also unclear what type and volume of deliveries the US will allow. However, there are indications that the newly introduced private sector imports of fuel will be accepted for the time being.

### Chinese company sells gasoline and diesel

In recent days, the Cuban government has held talks with foreign businesspeople based on the island and local entrepreneurs to explain the procedure. The background to this is the ongoing economic and social paralysis of the country as a result of the US energy blockade, under which the US threatens tariffs on all countries that supply fuel or oil to Cuba.

[According to EFE](#), imports will be handled like any other product from abroad (unlike in the case of the specialized oil tanker Nicos I.V.)—via a normal cargo ship equipped with stainless steel tanks. Procedurally, imports will be handled by a state-owned import company. In addition, special safety requirements must be met due to the hazardous nature of the material. A certified safe location is required at the destination, or the tanks must be temporarily stored in state-owned companies that have already been set up for this purpose.

[According to](#) the *Diario de Cuba* portal, a Chinese company is already publicly offering diesel and gasoline for sale – in quantities of 25,000 liters at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$3.45 per liter, depending on whether an empty tank is provided or not. The company guarantees the arrival of the fuel 21 days after receipt of payment.

In terms of volume and mode, private sector imports are currently a drop in the ocean. They are unlikely to be sufficient to get the economy back on track. At the moment, however, apart from the single delivery by Nicos I.V., they are the only form of energy supply currently tolerated by the US.

## **New tax incentives for renewable energies**

Parallel to private fuel imports, the Cuban government has created new incentives for the expansion of renewable energies. On February 19, the Cuban official gazette (*Gaceta Oficial*) published [Resolution 41/2026](#) of the Ministry of Finance. The decree consolidates and expands the existing system of tax incentives for renewable energies and replaces the [previous regulation from 2025](#). It thus continues a process [begun in 2021](#), which is being gradually extended from private individuals to companies and now to a broader range of products.

The core of the package is a comprehensive customs exemption: anyone who imports photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters, small wind turbines, biogas digesters, solar pumps, or solar lighting pays no import duty—regardless of whether they are a state-owned enterprise, a cooperative, a private company, a self-employed person, or a private individual.

Chargers for electric vehicles, provided they are powered by renewable sources, and devices for biomass energy generation have also been added to the catalog. However, the exemptions are temporary: they will initially apply until the end of 2027.

The tax relief is even more far-reaching. Self-employed persons and small business owners who install solar systems for their own consumption or for feeding into the grid are exempt from income tax for the entire amortization period – up to eight years – in the amount of the investment value. The same applies to legal entities for profit tax.

To benefit from the tax relief, applicants must meet two conditions: they must submit an energy report from the National Authority for Rational Energy Use confirming that the system is functioning properly, and they must submit a feasibility analysis showing the amortization period. The tax authority then has 60 days to determine the start date of the benefit. Anyone who can be shown not to be operating according to the system will lose the exemption.

A retroactive clause is noteworthy: self-employed persons who have already invested and obtained an energy certificate before the resolution came into force can also apply for the benefit. The same applies to companies with investments made in 2025.

The incentive package is accompanied by a price cap: products in the renewable energy sector may only be sold in wholesale and retail at so-called “non-fiscal prices” – with a maximum profit margin of 25 percent. This is intended to prevent retailers from profiting from the energy transition. ([Cubaheute](#))