October - December 2025

Africa Energy & Environment

In Search of Solutions to Africa's Development Problems and Strengthening Capacities

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CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO HEALTH

BUT TACKLING IT IS THE BIGGEST PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY

WHO IS AT RISK?

All populations, but some are more vulnerable than others

Children

Elderly

Those already ill

Those living in poverty

CLIMATE CHANGE RISK FACTORS FOR OUR HEALTH

UV Radiation

Animal or plant allergens

Ozone, particulate matter

Heat

Animals: vectors, reservoir animals

Environmental media: food, water

Non-communicable diseases

Communicable diseases

PHASING OUT POLLUTING FOSSIL FUELS IN FAVOUR OF CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Healthy energy without coal power, swift decarbonisation for health, stopping of subsidies for fossil fuels.

MORE EFFICIENT & HEALTHIER BUILDINGS

Put health at the heart for renovating and climate proofing the EU's existing building stock

CHANGED FOOD PRODUCTION AND DIETS

Decrease the risk for cardiovascular disease and cancer through reduced meat consumption, which also leads to less climate-harming emissions from agriculture.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION: WALKING AND CYCLING

Prioritise walking & cycling and other measures that will boost health. Diesel cars are not a healthy solution.

Actions from the health sector

Health sector and **health decision makers** have to sit at the table whenever policy proposals and measures on climate change, energy, transport, agriculture etc. are negotiated and decided. Tackling social and health inequalities should be a priority.

Health professionals should get involved and speak up about the health effects of climate change and the opportunities for mitigation.

HEAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE

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Published by
Sustainable Water & Sanitation
P.O. Box 37655 GPO
Nairobi 00100, Kenya
Mobile: + 254 722 641 820
+ 254 735 071 495
+254 116 479 380
Email:info@energyafrica.africa

Website:energyafrica.africa

Webmaster:sndegwa@energyafrica.africa

Publisher
S.N. Mwaniki
Email: mwaniki@energyafrica.africa

Graphic Designer
Wilson Irungu
Email:frellanconcepts@gmail.com
Mobile: +254 723 851 632
+254 722 854 528
Website: www.frellanconcepts.co.ke

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FEATURES

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

Renewable energy is energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed. Sunlight and wind, for example, are such sources that are constantly being replenished. Renewable energy sources are plentiful and all around us.

FEATURES

Africa faces a pivotal moment: a rapidly growing youth population and the urgent need to address climate change. These challenges present a unique opportunity for a green energy revolution that can drive sustainable development and create millions of jobs. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7—ensuring affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all—opens doors to a dynamic green economy, where young Africans can play a leading role

The African Development Bank Group has announced $40 million in blended capital to the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa – Project Development Fund, anchoring the Fund's first close of $118 million. This milestone marks a new era towards mobilizing blended capital in project development, to unlock a robust pipeline of investment-ready green infrastructure projects across the continent.

Partners

Editorial

Welcome to our inaugural the issue October - December 2025.

Documenting Africa's energy and environment is crucial for several reasons: it helps in understanding the continent's unique challenges and opportunities in the energy sector, facilitates informed decision-making, promotes sustainable development, and supports climate action efforts. By documenting these aspects, stakeholders can better address energy poverty, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and foster a more sustainable and prosperous future for Africa.

Africa's energy landscape is diverse, with varying levels of access, infrastructure, and resource availability. Documenting these differences is essential for tailoring solutions to specific contexts and addressing the unique challenges faced by different regions and communities. For example, some areas may have abundant renewable energy resources (like solar and wind) while others may rely heavily on fossil fuels or biomass. Understanding these nuances is vital for developing appropriate energy policies and infrastructure projects.

Data and documentation on energy resources, consumption patterns, and environmental impacts are critical for policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders. This information supports evidence-based decision-making in areas such as energy planning, infrastructure development, and resource management. For instance, accurate data on energy demand and supply can help optimize energy investments and ensure efficient resource allocation.

Documenting the environmental impact of energy production and consumption is crucial for promoting sustainable development. This includes assessing the impacts of fossil fuel extraction, hydro-power projects, and other energy-related activities on ecosystems, biodiversity, and water resources. By documenting these impacts, stakeholders can work towards minimizing environmental damage and promoting renewable energy sources.

Africa is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, despite contributing the least to global emissions. Documenting climate-related risks, vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies is crucial for effective climate action. This includes assessing the impacts of droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events on energy infrastructure and communities.

Documentation also supports the development of climate-resilient energy systems and the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

By documenting the potential of renewable energy sources and innovative energy technologies, Africa can attract investment and drive the transition to a low-carbon economy. This includes documenting the potential of geothermal, solar, wind, and other renewable resources. Detailed documentation on energy access gaps and investment opportunities can also attract private sector participation and accelerate energy development.

In essence, documenting Africa's energy and environment is not just an academic exercise; it is a fundamental requirement for achieving sustainable development, mitigating climate change, and ensuring a prosperous future for the continent.

Accelerating clean cooking investment can propel Africa towards full access by 2040

We released a major new report this month, addressing an issue that our Executive Director has described as one of the biggest humanitarian and energy injustices in the world today.

Currently, four in five families across Africa cook with polluting fuels like wood, charcoal or dung, often over open fires or basic stoves. These practices contribute to over 800,000 premature deaths each year due to household air pollution – mostly among women and children. And they trap millions more in poverty, with significant impacts on health, gender equality and economic opportunity.

But African countries can close one of the continent's most harmful energy and development gaps in just 15 years if they replicate the progress seen in other developing economies, according to our new report, which shows how universal access to clean cooking could be achieved across sub-Saharan Africa by 2040.

The IEA has been at the forefront of tracking, highlighting and putting forward solutions for the clean cooking issue for over two decades. Our new report – Universal Access to Clean Cooking in Africa – features the first comprehensive mapping of clean cooking infrastructure across sub-Saharan Africa, combined with an assessment of the cost and accessibility of each cooking solution down to the square kilometre. This detail informs a country-by-country roadmap for how sub-Saharan Africa can replicate the most effective policies, financing models and business strategies seen elsewhere, while adapting them to local contexts.

The report also tracks the outcomes of the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa that we held in May 2024 in Paris with our partners. The event mobilised over $2.2 billion in public and private sector commitments. According to the report, more than $470 million of those commitments has already been disbursed. And 10 out of 12 African governments that took part in the Summit have enacted or implemented new clean cooking policies.

African Development Bank Launches 2025 Country Focus Reports with Spotlight on Côte d'Ivoire

The African Development Bank officially launched its 2025 edition of the Country Focus Reports in Abidjan, beginning with Côte d'Ivoire, a country projected to be one of the fastest growing in the world this year.

The Country Focus Reports (CFRs), developed as a companion to the Bank's annual African Economic Outlook (AEO), provide country-specific macroeconomic analysis and policy recommendations. They aim to guide policymakers, investors, development partners, and researchers with tailored insights that support national development priorities.

Launched in May 2025 at the Bank's Annual Meetings, the 2025 AEO explores the theme: "Making Africa's Capital Work Better for Its Development." The Country Focus Reports build on this by providing localized data, context, and recommendations.

Speaking at the launch event, Prof. Kevin Urama, Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management at the African Development Bank Group, emphasized the importance of national-level insights. "The Country Focus Reports (CFRs) serve as a vital tool for bringing the macroeconomic insights of the Africa Economic Outlook (AEO) down to national level," he said, adding that were produced in close consultation with local and international experts.

A high-level panel discussion followed under the theme "Making Côte d'Ivoire's Capital Work Better for Its Development."

Marcelin Cissé, Director General of Planning, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development
Joseph Ribeiro, Deputy Director General, West Africa, African Development Bank
Rose Don Mello, Executive Secretary, Union of Large Industrial Enterprises of Côte d'Ivoire (UGECI)
Hugues Kouadio, Director, l'École nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée d'Abidjan (ENSEA)
Marcellin Ndong Ntah, Lead Economist, African Development Bank

Source: African Development Bank

Africa Climate Change Fund

The Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) is a multi-donor trust fund that enhances access to climate finance through capacity building, direct project implementation and strengthening of enabling environments. Established in April 2014, with an initial contribution from the Government of Germany, the ACCF was converted into a multi-donor Trust fund in 2017, with contributions from the Governments of Flanders (Belgium) and Italy. Between 2020 and 2023, Global Affairs Canada, the Global Center on Adaptation and the Governments of Quebec, Ireland, Austria and the United States Department of State joined the ACCF. The current value of the trust fund is $38.6 million.

The ACCF solicits projects through competitive calls for proposals and the Demand-Driven Window (DDW). The ACCF currently supports over 26 African countries through a portfolio of 30 projects, totaling approximately $18.57 million, including 8 completed projects and 1 cancelled project. This support strengthens capacities to access international climate finance, update or revise Nationally Determined Contributions, develop Long-Term Strategies, and implement small-scale adaptation projects that build resilience to climate change impacts while promoting gender equality.

Energy and health

Energy and health are inextricably linked. Access to clean, sustainable and affordable energy, outlined in the seventh Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 7), plays a crucial role in advancing health (SDG 3). Energy is also critical for achieving almost all other global goals that include eradication of poverty (SDG 1), opportunities for quality education (SDG 4), achievement of gender equality (SDG 5), access to clean water (SDG 6), jobs security and economic growth (SDG 8) and combat of climate change (SDG 13).

The links between energy and health are particularly evident in homes and health-care facilities. Access to clean and sustainable energy in homes is essential to protect people's health from household air pollution due to the use of polluting stoves and fuels such as coal and biomass. Access to clean and reliable energy in health-care facilities is important to ensure the delivery of essential health care services for disease prevention and treatment.

Increasing energy investment in Africa is vital for the continent's sustainable economic growth

IEA report in support of new G7 initiative lays out key energy investments needed to achieve Africa's energy and climate goals, and how to finance them

Meeting growing energy demand in Africa requires a surge of spending on clean energy projects, with swift action to tackle financial barriers so investment can reach the levels that are needed, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The report, Clean Energy Investment for Development in Africa, supports a flagship initiative launched today by Italy's G7 Presidency at the Leaders' Summit in Apulia. Called Energy for Growth in Africa, it aims to help foster a strong pipeline of bankable clean energy projects in Africa and to improve access to financing so the projects can come to fruition, with an emphasis on technical assistance and capacity building.

The IEA will be the initiative's key knowledge partner, working alongside the United Nations Development Programme, which will focus on implementation. Energy for Growth in Africa – which will complement existing initiatives among G7 members, including the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), Global Gateway, and Just Energy Transition Partnerships – will initially collaborate with the Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Africa.

Clean Energy Investment for Development in Africa lays out the opportunities and challenges of accelerating the

sustainable development of Africa's energy infrastructure. Despite the continent's immense energy resources, it currently attracts only around 3% of global spending on energy. About 600 million Africans still lack access to electricity, and more than 1 billion cook their meals over open fires and traditional stoves using wood, charcoal, kerosene, coal or animal waste.

According to the report, meeting Africa's rising energy needs, as well as the energy access, climate and development goals set by governments in the region, requires annual energy investment to more than double to over $240 billion by 2030, with around three-quarters going to clean energy. The report outlines key target areas for investment, including energy access, the power sector and emerging industries, such as critical minerals and the manufacturing of clean energy technologies.

It also highlights strategies to boost financing for energy investments in Africa, which remains difficult due to higher perceived risks and elevated borrowing costs compared with other parts of the world. In emerging and developing economies, the cost of capital can be two to three times higher than in advanced economies. The report emphasises that concessional finance is therefore key, especially to unleash more funding from the private sector. Africa's energy systems require, on average, $30 billion in concessional finance annually to 2030 to help realise the three-fold increase in private sector investment needed over the same period, according to the IEA analysis.

"The lack of energy access in Africa is a great injustice, but increased spending on impactful projects could quickly turn the tide," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said. "Our new report outlines the immediate investment priorities and the financing mechanisms needed to rapidly make these projects a reality. We are pleased this issue is high on the G7 agenda and stand ready to work closely with our partners in Africa and beyond to turn promises into action, including through the G7's Energy for Growth in Africa initiative."

The IEA has been working on energy and climate issues in Africa for decades. It now has five Association countries in Africa – Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and South Africa – and collaborates with many more on a wide range of energy issues. In May, the IEA and its partners hosted the first ever high-level Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa, mobilising $2.2 billion in financial pledges from governments and the private sector in an effort to make 2024 a turning point on clean cooking access.

Source: International Energy Agency

Niger: African Development Bank extends loan of over $144 million to enhance energy access and economic competitiveness

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved a loan of $144.27 million to Niger for the first phase of a program that will reform energy sector laws and address the country's critical power shortage.

Niger's Energy Sector Governance and Competitiveness Support Program is expected to address governance challenges by strengthening public financial management systems, particularly tax revenue mobilization and tax revenue control system. It will also support the clearance of domestic arrears, public-private dialogue, and the adoption of an industrial and commercial policy to bolster support for Nigerien businesses.

"This program represents our commitment to supporting Niger's economic recovery and energy independence," said African Development Bank Director General for West Africa Lamin Barrow. "By improving access to energy and strengthening governance frameworks, we are helping to lay the foundations for sustainable growth that will benefit all Nigeriens, particularly the most vulnerable populations."

The Bank's support will underpin ambitious energy objectives, including increasing national electricity access from 22.5% to 30% by 2026 while boosting manufacturing's contribution to GDP from 2.5% to 3.8%. A key component focuses on the renewable energy capacity development framework and includes plans to generate 240 MW of solar energy by 2030, with 50 MW coming onstream before December 2026.

The program particularly emphasizes social inclusion, with specific measures to support internally displaced persons, women, and youth. With more than 507,000 internally displaced persons nationwide due to security challenges in the Sahel region, targeted interventions will ensure that vulnerable populations benefit from improved economic opportunities.

The Nigerien economy has shown remarkable resilience despite challenges, with GDP growth climbing to 8.8% in 2024, and oil production expected to increase from 20,000

to 90,000 barrels per day by 2026. Still, only 22.5% of the population enjoy access to electricity, one of the lowest rates in West Africa. In rural areas, where 80% of Nigeriens live, only 4.5% have access to electricity, forcing families to rely on biomass for 94% for their energy needs.

Niger's strategic energy compact, formally adopted by decree, provides the framework to attract $527 million in private sector investment by 2030. The project will establish high-level coordination mechanisms and update national energy policies to create an enabling environment for private participation in mini-grid developments crucial for rural electrification.

The program positions Niger to capitalize on its vast renewable energy potential while building governance systems that support inclusive and sustainable development.

African Development Bank's SEFA and partners sign $26.5M deal for Zambia's Ilute solar project

The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), managed by the African Development Bank, has committed to contribute $8 million toward a $26.5 million financing package to support the 32 MWp Ilute Solar Project in Zambia.

The project, an Independent Power Producer (IPP) located in Western Zambia, will supply electricity via the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) under a market-based Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with regional power trader GreenCo Power Services Ltd, an innovative regional power trader. This structure will avoid burdening the Zambian government's balance sheet and bypass the need to secure sovereign guarantees. It is expected to provide a model that can be replicated in other countries seeking to attract private capital and promote regional energy integration.

Representatives of the project's financiers and developers signed the financing agreement on 19 June during the Africa Energy Forum currently taking place in Cape Town.

Daniel Schroth, African Development Bank Group Director for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, signed on behalf of SEFA. Representatives from Serengeti Energy, Kwama Energy, EDFI Management Company, and FMO also signed the financing agreement.

Zimbabwe lined up for 1 GW floating solar development

African Export–Import Bank, also referred to as Afreximbank or Banque Africaine d'Import-Export, has signed a $4.4 million project preparation facility agreement with Green Hybrid Power Private to advance feasibility and bankability studies for a 1 GW floating solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant on Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe, Africa.

According to Afreximbank, the project, which will be implemented in two phases, includes an initial 500 MW pilot targeting industrial and mining customers. Power will be sold entirely to the Intensive Energy Users Group, a consortium of large-scale energy consumers, under a 20-year "take-or-pay" power purchase agreement at a cost-reflective tariff.

The project preparation facility will also fund transaction advisory services to bring the project to financial close. The planned investment is estimated at $350 million.

According to Afreximbank, the floating PV plant is expected to deliver reliable and competitively priced electricity to energy-intensive industries in Zimbabwe, enabling mineral beneficiation and boosting the country's export revenues.

The agreement was signed by KAccording to Afreximbank, the project, which will be implemented in two phases, includes an initial 500 MW pilot targeting industrial and mining customers. Power will be sold entirely to the Intensive Energy Users Group, a consortium of large-scale energy consumers, under a 20-year "take-or-pay" power purchase agreement at a cost-reflective tariff.

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The agreement was signed by Kanayo Awani, Executive Vice President, Intra-African Trade and Export Development, on behalf of Afreximbank, and Eddie Cross, Chairman of Green Hybrid Power.

Global coal demand to remain on a plateau in 2025 and 2026

Global coal demand is likely to remain broadly unchanged this year and next, despite short-term fluctuations across several major markets in the first half of 2025, according to our latest market update on the sector.

The Coal Mid-Year Update shows that global coal demand increased to a new all-time high in 2024 of around 8.8 billion tonnes, up 1.5% from 2023, as rising consumption in China, India, Indonesia and other emerging economies more than offset declines in advanced economies in Europe, North America and northeast Asia.

However, several of those trends reversed in the first half of 2025 as demand declined in China and India due to weaker growth in electricity consumption and strong increases in power generation from renewable sources. By contrast, coal use grew by around 10% in the United States as robust growth in electricity demand combined with higher natural gas prices drove up coal consumption for power generation. In the European Union, coal demand was broadly flat, with lower consumption by industry offsetting higher demand from electricity generation.

Despite these short-term variations, the report notes that the underlying structural drivers of the world's coal use remain broadly unchanged, with coal continuing to be a leading source of electricity generation in many countries. As a result, it forecasts a slight increase in global coal demand in 2025, followed by a marginal decline in 2026, bringing demand to just below 2024 levels – consistent with the forecast published in December 2024. The main changes of note since our December 2024 report include downward revisions for global economic growth and an important energy policy shift in favour of coal in the United States.

China maintains its unique role in global coal markets, consuming almost 30% more coal than the rest of the world combined, the report notes. This means that China – particularly its electricity sector – remains the single largest driver of global coal demand trends.

Source: IEA

Octopus Energy

The politics of the moment may have shaken some faith in the future path for climate investments, but in actual on-the-ground (and sometimes in the water) deployment of solar, wind, and tidal power, Octopus Energy keeps on growing its reach and building a big business.

The U.K.-based provider of energy utility, energy generation, and transmission services is both challenging and in some cases partnering with established utilities on both sides of the pond, from British Gas to NRG and Con Edison.

It is now the largest energy supplier in the U.K., serving 7.3 million households across roughly 13 million electric meters.

Octopus has a portfolio of nearly $10 billion, and 11,000 employees across the 32 countries in which it is actively serving nine million customers, most still in the U.K., but with its international customer base nearing 2 million and growing quickly.

And, it is doing all of this on a profitable basis.

"In just ten years, Octopus Energy has gone from being a startup run by a handful of whiz kids, to a successful global business," the Wall Street Journal noted in a recent article.

Spain's government blames huge blackout on grid regulator and private firms

The Spanish government has said that the national grid operator and private power generation companies were to blame for an energy blackout that caused widespread chaos in Spain and Portugal earlier this year.

Shortly after midday on 28 April, both countries were

disconnected from the European electricity grid for several hours. Businesses, schools, universities, government buildings and transport hubs were all left without power and traffic light outages caused gridlocks.

While schoolchildren, students and workers were sent home for the day, many other people were stuck in lifts or stranded on trains in isolated rural areas.

In the immediate aftermath, the left-wing coalition government did not provide an explanation, instead calling for patience as it investigated

SDG 7.1 - Access to energy

Globally, 759 million people – 1 out of 10 – do not have access to electricity to light their homes, refrigerate their food, or keep cool in rising temperatures. Around 2.6 billion people have to rely on dirty biomass fuels such as charcoal, coal and animal waste for cooking. These figures are unacceptable.

In Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, 20 countries have the largest gaps in electricity and clean cooking access. These regions are also represented in the 80 percent of countries worldwide that do not have access to electricity. Without access to clean, modern energy, it is impossible to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reduce poverty, broaden education and improve public health. For example, replacing outdated stoves and open fires would save the lives of 800,000 children who die each year from exposure to indoor air pollution. That is why SDG7 calls for action to close these energy gaps by 2030.

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) research shows that investment for better electricity access falls far short of the spending needed to deliver universal access by 2030. Our Energizing Finance report shows that of the USD 36 billion in total finance for electricity access in 2017, only USD 12.6 billion was estimated to support new access for households, representing just one quarter of the estimated annual investment of USD 51 billion required to meet universal access. An annual investment of USD 4.4 billion is required to close access gaps, yet only USD 32 million in finance commitments for clean cooking solutions were tracked—representing less than 1 percent of the estimated finance required for universal clean cooking access by 2030.

Source: UN Climate

Advancing Gender Equality in the Energy Transition

The Gender and Energy Compact hosted a virtual parallel event on 21 March 2025, bringing together global stakeholders to reflect on 30 years of gender advancement towards an inclusive energy future. As part of the NGO Forum for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), which has been marking three decades since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the event explored the progress made in integrating gender considerations into energy policies, financing and leadership.

Experts and policymakers emphasized the persistent challenges, including the underrepresentation of women in energy decision-making—where they account for only 1 out of 10 leaders in the renewable energy sector, the limited availability of gender-disaggregated data, and the critical need for gender-responsive financing. Speakers from Kenya, Malawi and Sweden highlighted the impact of gender-focused energy policies.

Source: UN Energy

Global Conference Highlights Role of Energy in Advancing Climate and SDG Goals

At the Sixth Global Climate and SDG Synergies Conference, a thematic session on "Promoting Climate-SDG Synergies Through Energy Action" was held at UN City in Copenhagen on 28 May 2025. The session brought together government representatives, private sector stakeholders, academia, and international experts to explore how just and inclusive energy transitions can accelerate progress on both the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Discussions highlighted the importance of scaling up proven solutions—such as the Energy Compacts, which have mobilized over $1.4 trillion for clean energy projects—and strengthening international cooperation. The session also underscored the critical role of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group in informing the 2026 review of SDG7 at the UN High-level Political Forum, and in supporting efforts to align energy action with broader sustainable development and climate goals.

Source: UN Energy

Hon. Dr. Ibrahim Murtala Mohammed passes away

He passed on (6 Aug 2025, in a Ghana Air Force helicopter crash)

Very saddened to hear of the passing of **Hon. Dr. Ibrahim Murtala Mohammed,** Ghana's Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

Minister Mohammed was due to join us in Geneva at the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee talks to agree a global deal to beat plastic pollution, an issue I had the honor of discussing with him in June this year in Nice at the UN Ocean Conference.

Minister Mohammed was deeply respected by environmental leaders across the African continent and global stage. A committed environmentalist, Minister Mohammed was in Nairobi at UNEP Headquarters only a few weeks ago for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) meeting, where colleagues elected him as a member of the AMCEN Bureau.

We at UNEP send our deep condolences to his family, loved ones and people of Ghana during this tragic time.

Tribute: Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director

Ford Foundation Announces Heather Gerken as New President

On July 1, 2025, Dr. Francisco Cigarroa, chair of the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation, announced that Heather Gerken will become the 11th president of the Ford Foundation in November of 2025, succeeding Darren Walker. Gerken is the current dean of Yale Law School and a nationally recognized expert on constitutional law and democracy.

"Heather Gerken brings a wealth of experience working across the philanthropic and legal sectors that will only help sharpen the Ford Foundation's operations and grantmaking," said Dr. Francisco Cigarroa, chair of the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation. "In Heather, we have found a thoughtful and innovative leader with a knowledge and passion for justice that is centered on the values of democracy and helping advance human achievement for all citizens. Her life's work resonates with the mission of the Ford Foundation."

Indigenous Peoples sidelined in global climate fight, UN warns

© FAO/Mauricio Mireles Indigenous Peoples should be at the forefront of climate action, drawing on generations of environmental stewardship and deep connection to the land

As the planet heats up and the push to decarbonize gathers pace, Indigenous Peoples – long among the world's most effective environmental stewards – are once again being left behind, a new UN report reveals

Launched recently, The State of the World's Indigenous Peoples exposes a stark imbalance: while Indigenous Peoples make up just six per cent of the global population, they safeguard 80 per cent of the planet's remaining biodiversity – yet receive less than one per cent of international climate funding.

The report offers a sobering assessment of climate action that is not only lacking in urgency, but in fairness. From green energy projects imposed without consent to policy decisions made in rooms where Indigenous voices are absent, these communities are too often excluded from climate solutions, displaced by them, and denied the resources to lead the way.

"Although we are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, Indigenous Peoples are not victims," writes Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in the report's foreword.

Putting water management at the centre of the climate change fight

© UNICEF//Frank Dejongh Girls walking home after fetching water, in Itang Woreda, in the Gambela region of Ethiopia.

Some 2.2 billion people worldwide still lack access to safely managed drinking water services, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) - an increasingly urgent challenge as demand for safer access to the vital resource grows.

World Health Organization

The Energy Progress Report 2025

Overview

Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2025 finds that almost 92% of the world's population now has basic access to electricity. Although this is an improvement since 2022, which saw the number of people without basic access decrease for the first time in a decade, over 666 million people remain without access, indicating that the current rate is insufficient to reach universal access by 2030. Clean cooking access is progressing but below the rates of progress seen in the 2010s, as efforts remain hobbled by setbacks during the Covid-19 pandemic, following energy price shocks, and debt crises.

The latest edition of the annual report that tracks progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 highlights the role of distributed renewable energy (a combination of mini-grid and off-grid solar systems) to accelerate access, since the population remaining unconnected lives mostly in remote, lower-income, and fragile areas. Cost-effective and rapidly scalable, decentralised solutions are able to reach communities in such rural areas.

About the report

This report is published by the SDG 7 custodian agencies, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO) and aims to provide the international community with a global dashboard to register progress on energy access, energy efficiency, renewable energy and international cooperation to advance SDG 7.

Source: World Health Organization

$2.2 billion mobilized for clean cooking access in Africa

The co-chairs of the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa including the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan said the money collected so far would help to address what they described as one of the world's most persistent and deep-seated inequalities.

Close to 60 countries are taking part in the Summit, with over 1,000 delegates in attendance. President Emmanual Macron of France is hosting a special session for heads of state and other leaders at the Elysée Palace.

The Summit is a follow-up to the last UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP 28) where it was noted that the tools for enabling clean cooking access are readily

Paris, France: The first-ever high-level Summit on providing clean cooking access to the more than 1 billion people in Africa has so far raised mobilized $2.2 billion in financial pledges from governments and the private sector

available and affordable – and can have a profound impact on the lives of people across Africa and beyond.

It was noted that Africa was lagging in progress on clean cooking compared to other in other regions in recent decades.

Today's Summit is the first time that such a large amount has been dedicated to clean cooking access at a single gathering, with the potential to make 2024 a turning point on an issue that has been overlooked for too long. The pledges made at the Summit come on top of other recent commitments including that of the African Development Bank at COP28 in Dubai.

Lack of access to clean cooking affects over 2 billion people worldwide. More than half are in Africa, typically cooking over open fires and basic stoves. Using charcoal, wood, agricultural waste, and animal dung as fuel, they inhale harmful toxic fumes and smoke with dire consequences for health.

It is the second leading cause of premature death in Africa. Women and children account for most of the lives lost, the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Opportunities for education, employment and independence are limited because women instead spend hours each day foraging for rudimentary fuels. President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania said ensuring clean cooking access for all in Africa needs adequate, affordable, and sustainable financing for appropriate solutions and innovations.

She said there is also a need for adequate global attention; and smart policies and partnerships. "Successfully advancing the clean cooking agenda in Africa would contribute towards protecting the environment, climate, health, and ensuring gender equality," said Suluhu whose government has just launched a ten-year strategy on clean cooking.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre of Norway said improving access to clean cooking is about improving health outcomes, reducing emissions, and creating opportunities for economic growth.

"With today's Summit, we have mobilized much-needed support and built a diverse partnership that together can make a real difference. Norway is a steadfast supporter of clean cooking, and I was pleased to announce today that we are committed to investing approximately $50 million in this important cause," he said.

International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol said the Summit has delivered an emphatic commitment to an issue that has been ignored by too many people, for too long.

"We still have a long way to go, but the outcome of this Summit, $2.2 billion committed, can help support fundamental rights such as health, gender equality and education while also reducing emissions and restoring forests" he said.

Birol added that he commitments announced go beyond the money alone – they set out concrete steps on how governments, institutions and the private sector can work together to solve the clean cooking challenge this decade.

"I'm proud of the IEA's decades of work on this issue and of its leadership in initiating this groundbreaking Summit. Going forward, we will rigorously track the commitments announced today to make sure they're met on time and in full – and continue to do our utmost to bring greater resources and attention to this critical issue." African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi A. Adesinasaid: "At the African Development Bank, we are delighted to play a leading role alongside the International Energy Agency (IEA), Tanzania and Norway, to definitively tackle lack of access to clean cooking, that affects a billion people in Africa.

"In concert with countries, we will increase our financing for clean cooking to $200 million annually over the next decade, while also scaling up the provision of blended finance for clean cooking through the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)," Adesinasaid

The IEA said it will employ a "double-lock system" to ensure that the momentum behind clean cooking does not slow in the coming months and years.

The agency will focus efforts on two areas.

First, by using effective tracking methods to ensure that pledges and commitments are fulfilled, monitoring them carefully to make sure the money is spent in a timely manner and reaches those in need.

Second, the IEA will continue to play a convening role to engage more willing partners and generate new funds to help meet the $4 billion a year in capital investments required between now and 2030. Reaching this level of funding would enable the world to deploy the stoves and fuel delivery infrastructure needed to reach universal access to clean cooking in sub-Saharan Africa," she said.

Speakers at the conference said success stories from other regions demonstrate that rapid and transformative progress on clean cooking is achievable.

Similar innovative approaches are now required in countries across Africa. Leaders at the Summit all highlighted that now is the time to show endeavor by fixing this problem once and for all.

Source: IEA

Ford Foundation Supports Efforts to Center Justice in

Global electricity demand is on course to keep rising strongly through 2026

In the coming years, global electricity demand is expected to expand at one of the fastest sustained paces in over a decade despite ongoing economic pressures, according to the recent Mid-Year Update to our annual market report.

Electricity demand is on course to rise by 3.3% in 2025 and 3.7% in 2026 – more than twice as fast as total energy demand growth over the same period, the report says. Demand for electricity is increasing to power factories and appliances, keep buildings cool, operate growing fleets of data centres, run electric vehicles and more. The latest forecasts for global electricity demand growth this year and next are well above the 2015-2023 average.

According to the report, renewables are expected to overtake coal as the world's largest source of electricity generation as early as 2025 or by 2026 at the latest, depending on weather and fuel price trends. At the same time, nuclear power output is expected to reach record highs. The steady increase in natural gas-fired power generation is set to continue displacing coal and oil in the power sector in many regions.

Source: IEA

Africa-EU Energy Partnership

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) is a long-term framework for strategic dialogue between the EU and the African continent, aimed at sharing knowledge, setting common political priorities and developing joint programs on key energy issues of interest to Europe and Africa. It is one of the partnerships adopted under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), signed by 80 African and European Heads of State and Government at the 2007 Lisbon Summit.

The overall objective of the AEEP is to improve access to secure, affordable and sustainable energy for both continents, with a special focus on increasing investment in energy infrastructure in Africa.

The commitment to the partnership was renewed by both the EU and the African Union during the 6th EU-AU Summit in Brussels on 17-18 February 2022, where an investment package of approximately €150 billion was announced to support the continents' common ambitions for Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Global gateway

The investment package is part of the Commission's Global Gateway strategy to support investments in sustainable infrastructure worldwide. Through Global Gateway, the EU supports a number of flagship projects in Africa, including in the energy sector.

Scaling up Renewables in Africa campaign

The African continent holds 60% of the world's best solar resources, but it gets less than 2% of the global clean energy investments. 600 million people on the continent still lack access to electricity.

On 17 November 2024, President von der Leyen together with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Global Citizen launched the Scaling up Renewables in Africa campaign. The goal is to bring clean energy to the communities that need it most. It calls for new commitments on policy and finance from governments, financial institutions, private sector and philanthropists, to boost renewable power generation and access in Africa. The campaign will run for 1 year to conclude around the G20 summit in Cape Town in November 2025.

The Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative

In the context of the 6th EU-AU Summit in 2022, the EU also proposed a new Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative within the Global Gateway Investment package. It will support large-scale sustainable electrification programmes on the African continent with the goal of transforming the prospects of African people and helping the economy to grow, by addressing three priorities:

- increasing the number of African people, businesses and industries having access to affordable, modern and sustainable energy services
- support investments in renewable energy generation
- promote energy efficiency

By 2030, the EU-Africa Green Energy Initiative aims to provide at least 100 million people with access to electricity and €3.4 billion in EU grants will be delivered through Team Europe to support renewable energy, energy efficiency, the just transition and the greening of local value chains. Part of this will be used to leverage private sector investments via guarantees and blending under the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFDS+).

The initiative also proposes to promote new opportunities for cooperation on clean hydrogen production in Africa through four modes of cooperation: research, regulation, investments and trade.

On 14 May 2024, Vice-President Šefčovič announced that under the 'Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative' €400 million in funding for clean cooking activities were mobilized, combining contributions from EU countries, implementing agencies and public development banks and €150 million from EU funds.

Source: European Commission

Mission 300: Providing Access to Electricity to 300 million People in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030

Access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy is critical for powering economies, delivering essential services, and spurring job creation for Africa's growing population. With nearly 600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa living without access to electricity, Mission 300 is an ambitious initiative to connect 300 million people to

electricity in the region by 2030.

Led by the World Bank Group (WBG) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mission 300 is a unique initiative that brings together African governments, the private sector, and development partners to deliver affordable power, expand electricity access, boost utility efficiency, attract private investment and improve regional energy integration that drives economic transformation. To accelerate energy access through Mission 300, the WBG will connect 250 million people to electricity and the AfDB another 50 million by 2030.

Mission 300 is fueled by strong political will to transform Africa's energy sector. Under the Dar es Salaam Energy Declaration, African governments have committed to important sector reforms that are being implemented through country-led Energy Compacts. To build on these reforms, the WBG is increasing its support for energy projects in Africa, leveraging $30 billion in IDA resources between now and 2030, while using innovative tools to mobilize private sector investments.

Partnerships play an essential role to ensuring Mission 300's success. The WBG and the AfDB are working with partners like The Rockefeller Foundation, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), and the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) trust fund, to mobilize resources and align efforts in support of powering Africa. Many development partners and development finance institutions (DFIs) are also supporting Mission 300 projects through co-financing and technical assistance.

To unlock private investment across Africa's energy sector, the WBG is building upon its new guarantee platform to create innovative financing and de-risking facilities. For example, the WBG, the AfDB, and The Rockefeller Foundation launched Zafiri, a new investment company that will provide patient equity to private companies that advance distributed renewable energy solutions.

Together under Mission 300, this broad coalition of stakeholders is set to achieve a historic change in global energy access that will lift millions out of poverty and transform Africa.

African Energy Transition Programme

The contribution of African countries to the environmental degradation and their impacts on climate change is the lowest comparing to all the other regions in the World. In fact, African countries contribution to the emission of Carbon dioxide (CO2) is ranged between 3-5% of the global emission. Despite its low contribution to the emission of CO2, climate changes threaten Africa very severely.

This programme is therefore meant to accelerate the African Energy Transition and transformation required in the continent, to foster jointly inclusive economic growth,

wealth creation, poverty eradication, and inequality reduction in a sustainable climate compatible manner.

It provides a clear understanding of transformations of the energy system needed in the short, medium and long term to achieve the energy transition by identifying frameworks to support the development of sectoral and technological detailed, policy-relevant and country-driven strategies consistent with the national development agenda and the Paris Agreement goal.

The programme is envisioned to transform energy development in Africa, driven by AU Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement on climate change. Access to affordable clean energy for productive uses and households in Africa can be achieved mainly by introducing and implementing comprehensive policy tools that can transform the African Energy Sector to mostly be based on renewable resources through an integrated approach that develop synergies whilst maximising co-benefits and trade-offs.

The African energy transition programme is the main umbrella under which all AFREC programmes, policies and are developed and implemented. It aims to fully mobilize Africa's own energy resources and potentials; bringing energy to the top of national and regional agendas; and taking approaches that put Africa directly on to innovative, low carbon energy development pathways, avoiding the fossil fuel lock-in now facing most industrialized and emerging economies.

Africa's Energy Transition

The Ford Foundation commits $5.7 million to supporting an intersectional, multi-program, and partner initiative on just energy transitions in Africa

As part of the Ford Foundation's broader mission to combat inequality around the globe, the foundation has initiated a multi-faceted, five-year initiative to support the advancement of Africa's just energy transition. The initiative brings together partners based in and working across Africa to advance equitable and just energy transitions. Supported by three Ford Foundation programs (Natural Resources and Climate Justice, Civic Engagement and Government, and Future of Workers), this initiative recognizes that a just energy transition is a whole-of-society endeavor that must respect human and environmental rights, promote sustainable development and economic justice, reduce poverty and inequality, and create decent work and quality jobs.

This initiative recognizes that as African countries initiate their respective energy transitions, they will display a range of approaches and needs. These differences emerge from the unique contexts of their transitions and the different impacts on various stakeholders. A just energy transition will not come from a one-size-fits-all approach; social, economic, and environmental justice—underpinned by inclusion, transparency, and rights protection—must be at the core of its design, ambition, and implementation.

"Energy transitions will have systemic, far-reaching consequences with differing impacts on various communities, sectors, and more. Working with diverse partners from across civil society, labour, government, and the private sector, this initiative aims to support multi-stakeholder processes of negotiating this distribution of losses and gains in an equitable way that advances climate justice and delivers social and economic development," said Emmanuel Kuyole, Ford Foundation program officer, Natural Resources and Climate Justice in the Office of West Africa.

"A just and viable transition must include all voices from civil society, Indigenous communities, and those protecting the environment, as well as address different justice claims, and any alternative peaceful views must not be criminalized or punished," said Otto Saki, Ford Foundation program officer, Civic Engagement and Government International.

This initiative brings together a diverse group of partner organizations that will navigate and respond to competing definitions of justice through grants, convenings, learning, and research. It will help nurture the broad-based societal coalitions, made up of civil society organizations, policymakers, the private sector, and others, that are needed to advance transformative action that puts Africa on a path towards a more equitable and inclusive low-carbon development trajectory. Additionally, this initiative will prioritize impacts on historically excluded communities and workers and embed gender justice and feminist thinking and approaches.

"A just energy transition needs to be worker-centered and gender-transformative in order to be truly just," said Ghada Abdel Tawab, Ford Foundation senior program officer, Future of Work(ers). In that sense, the need for social dialogue and negotiation is at the heart of the fund's mission to catalyze broad social coalitions that can agree on how to balance impacts on communities with different—and often conflicting— justice claims.

In collaboration with Ford's Office of Strategy and Learning, the initiative will also produce analytical pieces and case studies that will provide evidence and reflections on what it means to center justice in energy transitions. Through this collaborative effort, where the different strengths of partners are leveraged in the interest of furthering the just transition, the collective influence and expertise of these organizations will support decision-making that keeps the well-being of those most affected by the transition at the forefront.

"Successful just energy transitions that reduce inequalities will require agreements in which the voices of the majority of—and ideally all—societal actors are represented and have some degree of power, but also in which all actors are prepared to compromise, and in that way build a broad coalition in support of these transitions," said Anthony Bebbington, Ford Foundation International Director, Natural Resources and Climate Justice.

Source: Ford Foundation

Chubb Becomes the 30th Major Insurer to Reject the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)

Kampala, Uganda – The East African Crude Oil Pipeline

(EACOP) faces more challenges as Chubb, one of the world's largest fossil fuel insurers, confirmed it will not provide insurance coverage for the controversial project. This decision follows Chubb's updated conservation policy from April 2024.

With this announcement, Chubb becomes the 30th major

global insurer to refuse EACOP, joining a growing list of 43 banks and 29 other insurance firms who have also rejected financing the pipeline. The insurer's updated conservation policy restricts underwriting new oil and gas projects in globally recognized protected areas—a category under which EACOP falls. This decision is the right step towards climate responsibility in an industry that has long avoided accountability in the fight against climate change.

"Chubb's decision to exclude EACOP from its coverage is a win for people and the planet," said Zaki Mamdoo, StopEACOP Campaign Coordinator. "Under the threat of climate and systems collapse, insurance should serve to protect communities from extreme weather events and should support resilient, locally rooted economies powered by socially owned renewables."

EACOP is a 1,443-kilometer crude oil pipeline stretching from Uganda's Kabaale and Hoima districts to the Tanzanian port of Tanga. It has been widely condemned for its devastating social and environmental impacts. These include the displacement of over 100,000 people, destruction of livelihoods, forced evictions, and alarming biodiversity loss—particularly in Murchison Falls National Park, a protected area where TotalEnergies is actively drilling.

"As someone who lost land and livelihood to this controversial project, I welcome this news from Chubb," said Rachel Tugume, one of the EACOP-Project Affected People. "EACOP has brought only suffering—forced evictions, destroyed farms, and broken futures for our children. No amount of money can replace what we've lost, but seeing global companies reject this project gives us hope. The world is finally listening to our cries."

Chubb's decision means it will no longer underwrite projects in Murchison Falls or any of the conservation areas listed in the World Database of Protected Areas. This aligns with mounting international pressure on financial institutions to move away from high-risk, high-impact fossil fuel projects.

"We celebrate Chubb's move to rule out insuring EACOP as a response to the serious community and climate risks associated with the controversial project," added Ethan Nuss, Senior Campaigner with Rainforest Action Network.

"Chubb has the potential to be a true climate leader by strengthening its policies to protect other frontline communities, like those on the US Gulf Coast, from the devastation of industrial fossil fuel projects."

The #StopEACOP campaign is now challenging other major insurers—AIG, Liberty Mutual, Tokio Marine, Brit, and Chaucer— to follow Chubb's lead. These firms must choose between short-term fossil fuel profits and a just, climate-resilient future. This is a pivotal moment for the insurance sector to step up. Across the EACOP route, communities are rallying behind the REpower Afrika campaign's call for socially owned, decentralised renewable energy systems that meet people's real needs. Insurance should enable this shift by prioritising development rooted in the region's vast renewable energy potential—underwriting projects that expand access to clean healthcare, education, nutrition, decent work, and shelter.

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What Is Climate Change?

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.

The main greenhouse gases that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from using gasoline for driving a car or coal for heating a building, for example. Clearing land and cutting down forests can also release carbon dioxide. Agriculture, oil and gas operations are major sources of methane emissions. Energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the main sectors causing greenhouse gases.

Humans are responsible for global warming

Climate scientists have showed that humans are responsible for virtually all global heating over the last 200 years. Human activities like the ones mentioned above are causing greenhouse gases that are warming the world faster than at any time in at least the last two thousand years.

The average temperature of the Earth's surface is now about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s (before the industrial revolution) and warmer than at any time in the last 100,000 years. The last decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record, and each of the last four decades has been warmer than any previous decade since 1850.

Many people think climate change mainly means warmer temperatures. But temperature rise is only the beginning of the story. Because the Earth is a system, where everything is connected, changes in one area can influence changes in all others.

The consequences of climate change now include, among others, intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity.

People are experiencing climate change in diverse ways

Climate change can affect our health, ability to grow food, housing, safety and work. Some of us are already more vulnerable to climate impacts, such as people living in small island nations and other developing countries. Conditions like sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion have advanced to the point where whole communities have had to relocate, and protracted droughts are putting people at risk of famine. In the future, the number of people displaced by weather-related events is expected to rise.

Every increase in global warming matters

In a series of UN reports, thousands of scientists and government reviewers agreed that limiting global temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C would help us avoid the worst climate impacts and maintain a livable climate. Yet policies currently in place point to a 3°C temperature rise by the end of the century.

The emissions that cause climate change come from every part of the world and affect everyone, but some countries produce much more than others.The seven biggest emitters alone (China, the United States of America, India, the European Union, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, and Brazil) accounted for about half of all global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.

Everyone must take climate action, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first.

We face a huge challenge but already know many solutions

Many climate change solutions can deliver economic benefits while improving our lives and protecting the environment. We also have global frameworks and agreements to guide progress, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Three broad categories of action are: cutting emissions, adapting to climate impacts and financing required adjustments.

Switching energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables like solar or wind will reduce the emissions driving climate change. But we have to act now. While a growing number of countries is committing to net zero emissions by 2050, emissions must be cut in half by 2030 to keep warming below 1.5°C. Achieving this means huge declines in the use of coal, oil and gas: over two-thirds of today's proven reserves of fossil fuels need to be kept in the ground by 2050 in order to prevent catastrophic levels of climate change.

Adapting to climate consequences protects people, homes, businesses, livelihoods, infrastructure and natural ecosystems. It covers current impacts and those likely in the future. Adaptation will be required everywhere, but must be prioritized now for the most vulnerable people with the fewest resources to cope with climate hazards. The rate of return can be high. Early warning systems for disasters, for instance, save lives and property, and can deliver benefits up to 10 times the initial cost.

We can pay the bill now, or pay dearly in the future

Climate action requires significant financial investments by governments and businesses. But climate inaction is vastly more expensive. One critical step is for industrialized countries to fulfil their commitment to provide $100 billion a year to developing countries so they can adapt and move towards greener economies.

A Decade After Paris, New Work Programme Drives Stronger, More Coordinated Climate Action

Almost ten years ago, the Paris Agreement changed the politics of climate change. It moved away from a system of top-down targets and introduced a more flexible framework based on national plans, voluntary commitments and shared goals. This approach opened space for cities, regions, businesses, investors, and civil society to contribute more directly. It also revitalized international cooperation and helped broaden the base of global climate action.

Since then, climate action has expanded dramatically. Companies have set net zero targets and cities have launched local adaptation and resilience programmes. Indigenous communities have restored damaged ecosystems, and financial institutions have begun shifting capital. Across sectors and regions, the number of initiatives has grown to support national policymaking.

But the experience of the past decade has shown that while the framework has broadened participation and resulted in significant progress, it has not resolved the need for stronger coordination, clearer delivery, and more consistent support to accelerate even further action in all corners of the world. Many initiatives continue to operate in isolation, with limited mechanisms to understand collective progress or connect efforts across sectors.

To address this, the Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership have launched a work programme focused on aligning the climate action already underway across the systems we all rely on. This programme forms the operational backbone of the newly launched Brazilian COP30 Action Agenda that brings existing efforts into sharper focus around 30 shared objectives aligned with the Global Stocktake - the UN's official "report card" on climate progress.

At its heart is the Brazilian principle of mutirão, a tradition of collective effort that calls on everyone to roll up their sleeves, pool their resources, and work together to deliver change. The work programme not only guides delivery in the leadup to COP30, it also serves as a springboard for a broader consultative process with Parties to the UNFCCC and non-State actors, helping to guide the next five years of the Global Climate Action Agenda.

The COP30 Action Agenda objectives are grouped into six core 'axes': transitioning energy, industry and transport; stewarding forests, oceans and biodiversity; transforming agriculture and food systems; building resilience for cities, infrastructure and water; and fostering human and social development. There is also a cross-cutting focus on enablers like finance, technology and capacity-building. Objectives range from tripling renewable energy capacity and halting deforestation to achieving universal access to clean cooking and ensuring safe, sustainable and equitable water systems.

The effort is closely linked to national planning processes across the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. By aligning voluntary initiatives with official Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the work programme aims to bridge global ambition and local delivery — ensuring that climate action is not only bolder, but better coordinated across levels of government and areas of society.

The work programme is additionally designed to support delivery where it matters most by amplifying effective approaches and helping actors across the climate ecosystem understand how their work connects across the systems that drive daily life. Each objective is supported by Activation Groups, made up of initiatives already working in that space. These groups are responsible for identifying barriers, coordinating delivery efforts, sharing practical solutions and reporting progress.

To ensure local breakthroughs become global solutions, each Activation Group will contribute to a "Granary of Solutions" — a collection of proven approaches that others can adopt or adapt.

Groups and initiatives currently contributing to the shared objectives are encouraged to register through the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal and explore opportunities to participate in relevant Activation Groups. Progress will be shared throughout the year and reviewed at COP30 in Belém, as part of a broader effort to shape a more coherent, accountable and durable approach to climate action.

Source: UN Climate Change

World Court says countries are legally obligated to curb emissions, protect climate

Climate activists voice their opinion outside the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands, issued its advisory opinion on the obligations of States in respect of climate change, read out by the President of the Court, Judge Iwasawa Yuji, in July, 2025

The UN's principal judicial body ruled that States have an obligation to protect the environment from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and act with due diligence and cooperation to fulfill this obligation.

This includes the obligation under the Paris Agreement on climate change to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The Court further ruled that if States breach these obligations, they incur legal responsibility and may be required to cease the wrongful conduct, offer guarantees of non-repetition and make full reparation depending on the circumstances.

A victory for our planet

UN Secretary-General António Guterres issued a video message welcoming the historic decision, which came a day after he delivered a special address to Member States on the unstoppable global shift to renewable energy.

"This is a victory for our planet, for climate justice and for the power of young people to make a difference," he said.

Reasoning of the Court

The Court used Member States' commitments to both environmental and human rights treaties to justify this decision.

Firstly, Member States are parties to a variety of environmental treaties, including ozone layer treaties, the Biodiversity Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and many more, which oblige them to protect the environment for people worldwide and in future generations.

But, also because "a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a precondition for the enjoyment of many human rights," since Member States are parties to numerous human rights treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they are required to guarantee the enjoyment of such rights by addressing climate change.

Case background

In September 2021, the Pacific Island State of Vanuatu announced that it would seek an advisory opinion from the Court on climate change. This initiative was inspired by the youth group Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change, which underscored the need to act to address climate change, particularly in small island States.

After the country lobbied other UN Member States to support this initiative in the General Assembly, on 29 March 2023, it adopted a resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the ICJ on two questions: (1) What are the obligations of States under international law to ensure the protection of the environment? and (2) What are the legal consequences for States under these obligations when they cause harm to the environment?

The UN Charter allows the General Assembly or the Security Council to request the ICJ to provide an advisory opinion. Even though advisory opinions are not binding, they carry significant legal and moral authority and help clarify and develop international law by defining States' legal obligations.

This is the largest case ever seen by the ICJ, evident by the number of written statements (91) and States that participated in oral proceedings (97).

The 'World Court'

The ICJ, informally known as the "World Court", settles legal disputes between UN Member States and gives advisory opinions on legal questions that have been referred to it by UN organs and agencies.

It is one of the six main organs of the UN alongside the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council and the Secretariat and is the only one not based in New York.

Climate Change Overview

Development progress has stalled in many countries amid low growth, increased fragility and conflict, pandemic-related setbacks, and the impacts of climate change. An essential part of our vision to end poverty on a livable planet is helping people and communities adapt and prepare for the unpredictable and life-changing weather patterns they are experiencing. Droughts, extreme heat, flooding and storms push millions into poverty annually, causing unemployment and risking unplanned internal and cross-border migration. Every year, an estimated 26 million people fall into poverty due to extreme weather events and natural disasters. These shocks have the potential to push a total of 130 million into poverty by 2030. We are supporting countries to meet these challenges in a way that builds resilience across families, communities, and companies, and doesn't inadvertently increase pollution.

Helping people and communities adapt means making development investments that improve quality of life while also creating local jobs, strengthening education, and promoting economic stability. It also ensures that limited development resources are used wisely—by building infrastructure that can withstand future disasters, rather than needing to be rebuilt after each one. The World Bank Group is committed to meeting the needs of its clients – developing countries – who are asking our projects to have climate benefits, seeing it as smart development for their unique situations. This is a practical approach that opens the door to every resource at our disposal—bringing in industries and investors across the spectrum to participate. It creates opportunities, ensuring that no one is left out of the solutions we need for a more sustainable future.

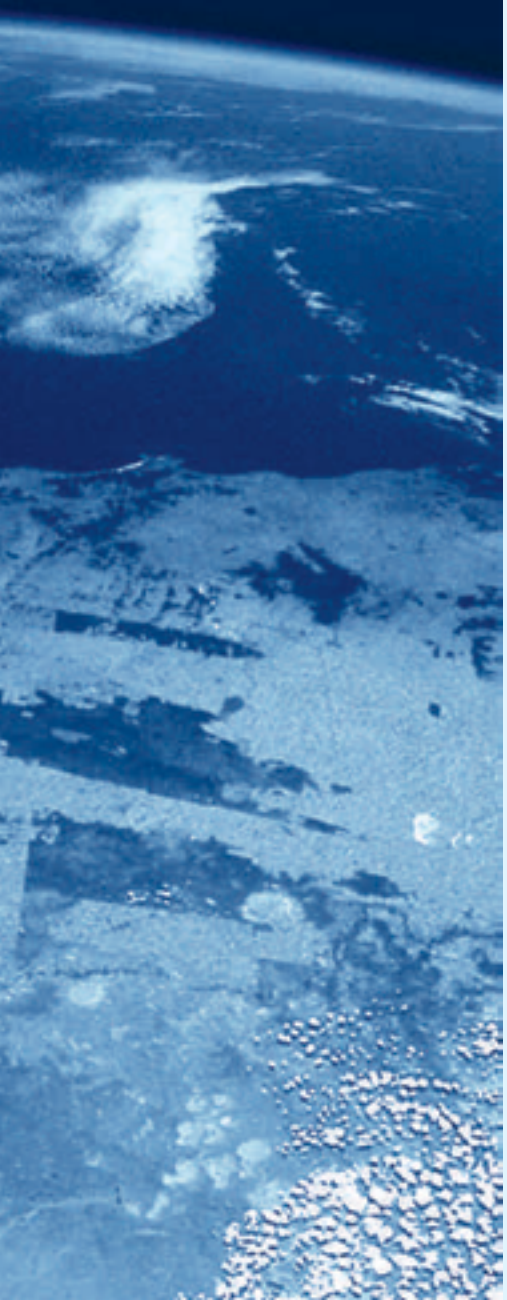
This means building hospitals that can withstand natural disasters and roads that don't get washed away with rainfall. Countries are investing in resource efficient rice harvests, heat-resistant varieties of seeds, drip irrigation, and restoring forests and mangroves to protect rural and coastal communities, improve their food security, and identify new private sector opportunities that will create jobs.

We are supporting reliable and affordable energy, boosting utility efficiency, and increasing regional power integration. We are also investing in country priorities – for example, improving affordable and efficient public transportation to get people back and forth to work, or improving on-farm productivity with new varieties of seeds and healthier livestock.

Credit: World Bank

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF THE WORLD



Energy Transition

Synergy between solar and storage will drive the clean energy transition

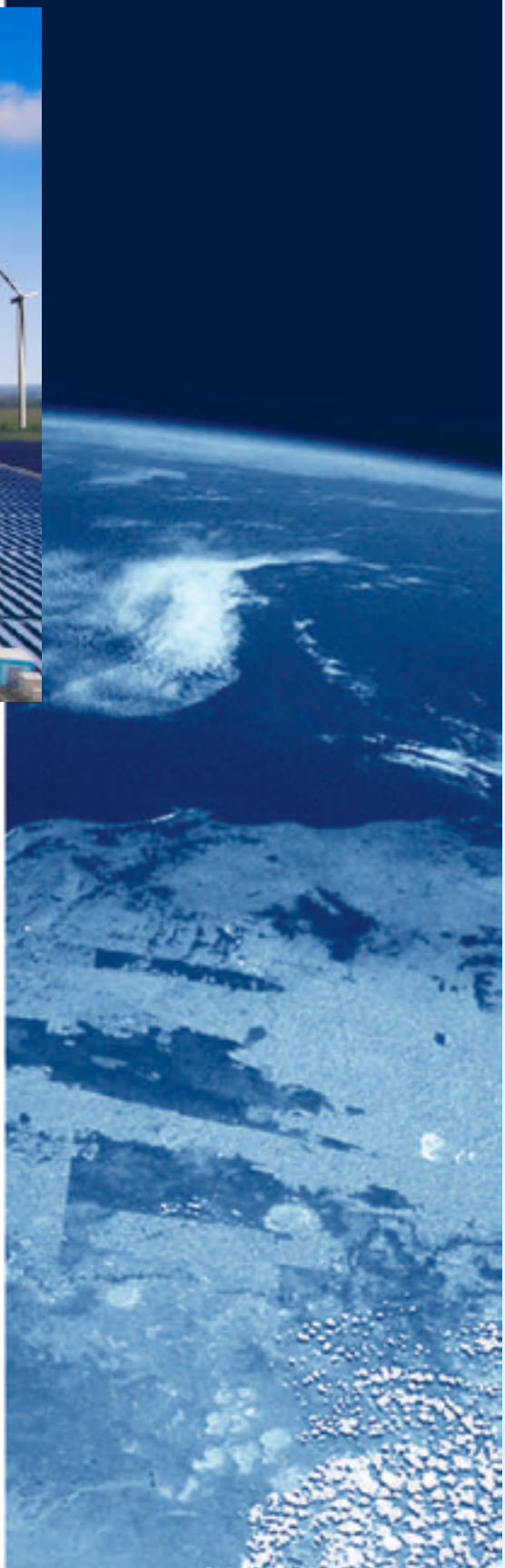
- **The world is facing a climate crisis, with emissions from burning fossil fuels for electricity and heat generation the main contributor.**
- **We must transition to clean energy solutions that drastically cut carbon emissions and provide a sustainable path forward.**
- **The synergy between solar PV energy and energy storage solutions will play a pivotal role in creating a future for global clean energy.**

The need for clean energy has never been more urgent. 2024 was the hottest year on record, with global temperatures reaching 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This exceeds the 1.5°C goal set by the Paris Agreement, indicating a severe climate crisis.

The root cause of this warming is the excessive emission of carbon dioxide (CO^2) and other greenhouse gases, primarily from burning fossil fuels for energy production. Evidently, the electricity and heat generation are major contributors to this problem, with CO^2 emissions from this sector amounting to 16.23 billion tons in 2021, equal to 43.06% of global CO^2 emissions.

Such reliance on fossil fuels has not only intensified global warming but has also led to more frequent and severe weather events such as wildfires, heatwaves and rising sea levels. To mitigate these effects and limit further damage, the world must transition to clean energy solutions that drastically cut carbon emissions and provide a sustainable path forward.

The shift to clean energy is gaining



momentum. In 2023, 91% of new power capacity came from renewable sources such as wind and solar. In the first half of 2024, the renewable sector attracted over $313 billion in investment.

Solar energy is one of the most affordable renewable solutions

Solar energy, in particular, has become more affordable and efficient. From 2012 to 2024, the cost of photovoltaic modules in China dropped by 87%, while the global levelized cost of electricity for solar PV fell by 89% between 2010 and 2022, reaching just $0.049/kWh. Meanwhile, module efficiency has also surged from 14% to 24%. These advancements have made solar energy one of the most accessible renewable solutions for both residential and utility-scale projects.

Solar modules are now more efficient and compact, occupying less space while generating more power. This has significant implications for the scalability of solar installations, especially for urban areas or locations with limited space.

Additionally, technological improvements have enhanced modules durability, reduced degradation and extended the lifespan of solar panels. The combination of higher efficiency, improved reliability and greater longevity ensures that solar energy will continue to be the cornerstone of global green transition.

A major turning point in the industry came in 2016 with the introduction of passivated emitter and rear cell (PERC) technology, which significantly improved solar cell efficiency, generating more electricity from the same amount of sunlight compared to traditional polycrystalline cells.

By 2022, N-type tunnel oxide passivated contact (TOPCon) technology emerged, offering even higher efficiency and better long-term performance. TOPCon cells boost energy output through innovations like a tunnel oxide layer that reduces energy loss and advanced surface treatments that improve electricity flow and reduce performance degradation.

These improvements enable TOPCon to approach a theoretical efficiency of 28.7%, well above PERC's 24.5%. As a result, TOPCon has rapidly overtaken PERC: in 2024, TOPCon modules accounted for 74% of shipments among the top 10 solar manufacturers, while PERC made up only 23%.

Imagine a European household in 2014, considering the installation of a 10 kW solar system. Back then, the cost would have been a hefty $23,900, requiring an area of 80 square metres. Fast forward to 2024, the same 10 kW system now costs just $1,500 and covers a mere 46 square metres, according to JinkoSolar analysis. This staggering change is due to two key factors: the dramatic decrease in module costs and the significant improvement in module efficiency.

The transition from PERC to TOPCon has been driven by a range of industry leaders. Companies such as JinkoSolar, Trina Solar, JA Solar and LONGi have all played pivotal roles in advancing the technology and scaling its adoption. JinkoSolar alone has broken the world record for cell efficiency 27 times and holds one of the industry's largest portfolios of granted N-type TOPCon patents.

As of February 2025, JinkoSolar had shipped 300 GW of modules worldwide –140GW of which were TOPCon modules – solidifying its position as the global leader in TOPCon adoption, with Wood Mackenzie naming JinkoSolar the world's top solar module manufacturer in 2025.

Agenda Contributor

Dany Qian Jing

Global Vice-President, JinkoSolar

What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed. Sunlight and wind, for example, are such sources that are constantly being replenished. Renewable energy sources are plentiful and all around us.

Fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas - on the other hand, are non-renewable resources that take hundreds of millions of years to form. Fossil fuels, when burned to produce energy, cause harmful greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide.

Generating renewable energy creates far lower emissions than burning fossil fuels. Transitioning from fossil fuels, which currently account for the lion's share of emissions, to renewable energy is key to addressing the climate crisis.

Renewables are now cheaper in most countries, and generate three times more jobs than fossil fuels.

Here are a few common sources of renewable energy:

SOLAR ENERGY

Solar energy is the most abundant of all energy resources and can even be harnessed in cloudy weather. The rate at which solar energy is intercepted by the Earth is about 10,000 times greater than the rate at which humankind consumes energy.

Solar technologies can deliver heat, cooling, natural lighting, electricity, and fuels for a host of applications. Solar technologies convert sunlight into electrical energy either through photovoltaic panels or through mirrors that concentrate solar radiation.Although not all countries are equally endowed with solar energy, a significant contribution to the energy mix from direct solar energy is possible for every country.

The cost of manufacturing solar panels has plummeted dramatically in the last decade, making them not only affordable but often the cheapest form of electricity. Solar panels have a lifespan of roughly 30 years, and come in variety of shades depending on the type of material used in manufacturing.

WIND ENERGY

Wind energy harnesses the kinetic energy of moving air by using large wind turbines located on land (onshore) or in sea- or freshwater (offshore). Wind energy has been used for millennia, but onshore and offshore wind energy technologies have evolved over the last few years to maximize the electricity produced - with taller turbines and larger rotor diameters.

Though average wind speeds vary considerably by location, the world's technical potential for wind energy exceeds global electricity production, and ample potential exists in most regions of the world to enable significant wind energy deployment.

Many parts of the world have strong wind speeds, but the best locations for generating wind power are sometimes remote ones. Offshore wind power offers tremendous potential.

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

Geothermal energy utilizes the accessible thermal energy from the Earth's interior. Heat is extracted from geothermal reservoirs using wells or other means.

Reservoirs that are naturally sufficiently hot and permeable are called hydrothermal reservoirs, whereas reservoirs that are sufficiently hot but that are improved with hydraulic stimulation are called enhanced geothermal systems.

Once at the surface, fluids of various temperatures can be used to generate electricity. The technology for electricity generation from hydrothermal reservoirs is mature and reliable, and has been operating for more than 100 years.

HYDROPOWER

Hydropower harnesses the energy of water moving from higher to lower elevations. It can be generated from reservoirs and rivers. Reservoir hydropower plants rely on stored water in a reservoir, while run-of-river hydropower plants harness energy from the available flow of the river

Hydropower reservoirs often have multiple uses - providing drinking water, water for irrigation, flood and drought control, navigation services, as well as energy supply.

Hydropower currently is the largest source of renewable energy in the electricity sector. It relies on generally stable rainfall patterns, and can be negatively impacted by climate-induced droughts or changes to ecosystems which impact rainfall patterns.

The infrastructure needed to create hydropower can also impact on ecosystems in adverse ways. For this reason, many consider small-scale hydro a more environmentally-friendly option, and especially suitable for communities in remote locations.

OCEAN ENERGY

Ocean energy derives from technologies that use the kinetic and thermal energy of seawater - waves or currents for instance - to produce electricity or heat.

Ocean energy systems are still at an early stage of development, with a number of prototype wave and tidal current devices being explored. The theoretical potential for ocean energy easily exceeds present human energy requirements.

BIOENERGY

Bioenergy is produced from a variety of organic materials, called biomass, such as wood, charcoal, dung and other manures for heat and power production, and agricultural crops for liquid biofuels. Most biomass is used in rural areas for cooking, lighting and space heating, generally by poorer populations in developing countries.

Modern biomass systems include dedicated crops or trees, residues from agriculture and forestry, and various organic waste streams.

Energy created by burning biomass creates greenhouse gas emissions, but at lower levels than burning fossil fuels like coal, oil or gas. However, bioenergy should only be used in limited applications, given potential negative environmental impacts related to large-scale increases in forest and bioenergy plantations, and resulting deforestation and land-use change.

Powering Africa's Future: How Youth Can Drive the Green Energy Revolution

Africa faces a pivotal moment: a rapidly growing youth population and the urgent need to address climate change. These challenges present a unique opportunity for a green energy revolution that can drive sustainable development and create millions of jobs. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7—ensuring affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all—opens doors to a dynamic green economy, where young Africans can play a leading role

Globally, 666 million people still lack access to electricity with eighteen out of the top twenty access-deficit countries being in Sub-Saharan Africa. Accelerated action to achieve SDG 7 and global energy goals have resulted in a surge in demand for clean energy solutions and energy efficiency measures. The International Energy Agency predicts over 30 million jobs in clean energy, energy efficiency, and low-emissions technologies by 2030, a massive opportunity for African youth.

The Green Economy is Growing: Are Youth Ready?

The energy access, energy efficiency and sustainable cooling sectors are experiencing rapid growth. Take the sustainable cooling market, for instance, which is projected to more than double to $600 billion annually in developing economies by 2050. This growth is generating new business and employment opportunities, with roles such as sustainability analysts, energy efficiency specialists, cold chain developers, and cooling managers among the fastest-growing positions.

However, a critical challenge remains: the demand for workers with green skills exceeds the available supply. Energy auditors, environmental engineers, and solar technicians are in high demand, but only 13% of the workforce possesses the skills required for a meaningful green transition. This skills gap highlights the urgent need for youth upskilling and targeted career support.

"Cooling the Planet: Jobs in Energy Efficiency & Cold Chain Solutions"

To address these challenges, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and Shortlist Futures launched a webinar series, "Activating Africa's Green Economy Through Youth Employment." The first session, "Cooling the Planet: Jobs in Energy Efficiency & Cold Chain Solutions," explored opportunities within energy access and energy efficiency, looking at careers in sub-sectors like cold storage, cooling technologies, cooling in healthcare, and sustainable agriculture, offering labor market insights and practical guidance.

Elizabeth Wangeci-Chege (Energy Efficiency & Cooling Specialist, SEforALL) emphasized the transformative power of energy efficiency, underscoring its potential to create jobs, foster sustainable economies, and accelerate progress towards SDG 7. She highlighted the significant energy loss in buildings and appliances, stressing the shortage of skilled energy auditors. Elizabeth also advocated for government-led initiatives, including green procurement standards and mandatory energy efficiency regulations, to generate more green jobs.

Denis Karema (Founder & CEO, SokoFresh) encouraged youth to identify unsolved problems in growing sectors. He stressed the importance of understanding supply chains and leveraging external support. Durodoluwa Femi-Ajala (Co-Founder of CoolCycle, Youth Sustainable

Development Network) echoed this, advising youth to deeply understand people's needs through consistent stakeholder engagement. She shared a compelling case study of CoolCycle, a project from insights gained during a solar irrigation project, that addresses post-harvest losses and electricity access issues for farmers by providing energy as a service. This initiative not only reduces carbon emissions by repurposing end-of-life diesel generator casings and utilizing solar energy but also significantly improves farmers' livelihoods, demonstrating the powerful impact of youth-led innovation.

Speakers like Dwayne Asembo (Project Manager, Shortlist Futures) highlighted the importance of financial literacy and soft skills, such as time management, communication, and adaptability. They noted that financial professionals are crucial for building investor trust and ensuring the sustainability of green ventures.

Taking the Next Step in Energy Careers

For young people, the path forward is clear: invest in green skills; explore careers in energy efficiency, cold chain solutions, and sustainable agriculture; and seek both technical and soft skills. SEforALL's career guide is a valuable starting resource: https://www.seforall.org/careersguide. Embrace entrepreneurship by identifying market gaps and innovating, particularly in areas like cold storage, energy efficient appliances, and sustainable food systems. There is immense scope to build solutions that address Africa's unique challenges and opportunities.

Crucially, build a strong network through partnership and collaboration, and foster sustainable relationships over time. Engage with organizations like Shortlist Futures and SEforALL, and connect with industry leaders and mentors who are eager to empower youth towards a shared sustainable energy future. Connect with Mission Efficiency to access learning resources and contribute to global energy efficiency initiatives at https://missionefficiency.org/.

Youth can also access Africa's largest climate careers job board, https://climatejobs.shortlist.net/companies, hosted by Shortlist Futures, to find exciting opportunities and set alerts for roles in energy and cooling from across the continent.

Creating an Enabling Environment

Policymakers, industry leaders, and investors must support policies that enable youth employment and entrepreneurship in the green economy. Investing in skills development and mentorship programs is vital. Collaborative efforts are needed to create clear pathways for youth participation in the energy transition.

Empowering young Africans with the right skills and fostering a supportive environment will position the continent to lead the global green transition, benefiting everyone and building a sustainable energy future.

Source: SEforALL

Publications

Emissions Gap Report 2023

As greenhouse gas emissions hit new highs, temperature records tumble and climate impacts intensify, the Emissions Gap Report 2023: Broken Record – Temperatures hit new highs, yet world fails to cut emissions (again) finds that the world is heading for a temperature rise far above the Paris Agreement goals unless countries deliver more than they have promised. The report is the 14th edition in a series that brings together many of the world's top climate scientists to look at future trends in greenhouse gas emissions and provide potential solutions to the challenge of global warming.

What's new in this year's report

The report finds that there has been progress since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015. Greenhouse gas emissions in 2030, based on policies in place, were projected to increase by 16 per cent at the time of the agreement's adoption. Today, the projected increase is 3 per cent. However, predicted 2030 greenhouse gas emissions still must fall by 28 per cent for the Paris Agreement 2°C pathway and 42 per cent for the 1.5°C pathway.

As things stand, fully implementing unconditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) made under the Paris Agreement would put the world on track for limiting temperature rise to 2.9°C above pre-industrial levels this century. Fully implementing conditional NDCs would lower this to 2.5°C.

The EGR report calls for all nations to accelerate economy-wide, low-carbon development transformations. Countries with greater capacity and responsibility for emissions will need to take more ambitious action and support developing nations as they pursue low-emissions development growth.

Source: UNEP

Afdb Group Commits $40 Million to Catalyze the Alliance for Green Infrastructure- Project Development Fund

- Bank's investment anchors first close of $118 million for Africa's leading green infrastructure initiative
- The Fund, managed by Africa50, seeks to raise $400 million of blended, early-stage development capital to deliver a pipeline of investment-ready green infrastructure projects in Africa

The African Development Bank Group has announced $40 million in blended capital to the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa – Project Development Fund, anchoring the Fund's first close of $118 million. This milestone marks a new era towards mobilizing blended capital in project development, to unlock a robust pipeline of investment-ready green infrastructure projects across the continent.

The AGIA-PD's strong alliance of development finance institutions, public agencies, philanthropic organizations, and private investors includes KfW (the German development bank), the West African Development Bank (BOAD), the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the Three Cairns Group, and the Soros Economic Development Fund.

The African Development Bank's strategic investment in the Fund — comprising $20 million in grants, $10 million in commercial equity, and $10 million in junior equity from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa, which the Bank administers— underscores the Bank's leadership in de-risking early-stage projects and catalyzing private investment into infrastructure.

"Through this $40 million spanning grants, junior equity, and commercial equity, the African Development Bank is pioneering a comprehensive approach that will unlock Africa's vast green infrastructure potential," said Solomon Quaynor, the Bank's Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization. "This investment represents more than capital. It is a bold declaration that the Bank stands ready to share early-stage risk alongside our partner. The resources will be deployed for co-development with both emerging and established developers, ensuring a diverse and scalable pipeline. Our blended-finance model is designed to mobilize billions in private-sector investment for Africa's low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure."

The Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa - Project Development Fund is part of the AGIA initiative, led by the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, and Africa50. The initiative aims to raise $500 million, with $100 million in grants for project preparation overseen by the Bank and $400 million for project development through the Fund, to unlock a $10 billion investment pipeline in strategic areas, including energy, sustainable transport, and

"Since the unveiling of the initiative at COP27, the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa has moved from ambition to execution, and this first close of the AGIA Project Development Fund is a powerful testament to that progress", Africa50, Alain Ebobissé, CEO.

He added. "We are deeply grateful to our founding partners and investors for their trust and commitment. By unlocking early-stage capital, AGIA will help accelerate the development of bankable green infrastructure projects, strengthen local capacity, and pave the way for a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous Africa. Africa50 is proud to serve as fund manager and drive this vital initiative forward."

Minister of State for Development of the United Kingdom, Jenny Chapman, said, "We are partnering with countries to unlock private investment in the places hardest hit by climate change. This is good news for local communities, helping create growth, and for the UK. Today's UK investment will support African-led projects like solar farms and water treatment plants, helping build stronger economies which can deal better with the effects of climate change."

Christine de Barros Said, Head of Cooperation, German Embassy in Maputo underscored the German government's commitment to support Africa on its path to a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

Christine de Barros Said remarked: "Through KfW, we are providing €26 million to promote more private and public investment in green infrastructure. AGIA identifies and develops projects until they reach creditworthiness and then sells them to investors. This generates important investments in renewable energy, transport, water, and digitalization, which the continent urgently needs to foster economic growth and job creation."

Commenting on the first close, President and Chairman of West African Development Bank, Serge Ekue, said: "BOAD's commitment to supporting Africa50 in implementing AGIA reaffirms our dedication to closing Africa's infrastructure gap and fostering private sector investment in innovative projects. This contribution is poised to drive sustainable development across the West African Economic and Monetary Union member states and the continent at large."

Mark Gallogly, co-founder of Three Cairns Group, described the AGIA's first close as "a significant milestone in tackling persistent barriers to scaling clean energy and climate-resilient infrastructure across Africa. We are proud to support this effort and to see catalytic capital flow into early-stage project development — a critical enabler for unlocking economic vitality on the continent."

The CEO of the Soros Economic Development Fund, Georgia Levenson Keohane, said: "The Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF) is proud to support the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa, a critically important Africa-led partnership to catalyze transformative green infrastructure projects that enhance climate resilience, accelerate a just energy transition, and drive inclusive, sustainable development across the continent."

Source: African Development Bank

Publications

Protecting Nature Boosts Growth and Jobs, Shows New Report

Safeguarding natural resources generates high returns in some sectors.

Ninety percent of the world lives with either degraded land, unhealthy air, or water stress, according to a new World Bank report, however, restoring natural systems is possible and can yield high returns.

In low-income countries alone, eight of out ten people live without all three – healthy air, water, and land – according to the report, Reboot Development: The Economics of a Livable Planet. This poses major constraints to economic growth and opportunity. New evidence shows that the loss of forests disrupts rainfall, dries soils, and worsens droughts, costing billions of dollars. The report also identifies a nitrogen paradox where fertilizers boost yields, but overuse in some regions harms crops and ecosystems, costing as much as $3.4 trillion annually. And air and water pollution silently damage health, productivity, and cognition, thereby sapping human potential.

If managed well, however, nature can create jobs, drive economic growth, and build resilience. Using natural resources more efficiently could reduce pollution by as much as 50 percent. Improving farm-level practices of nitrogen fertilizer use can deliver 25 times greater benefits than their cost, while boosting crop yields. Improving water and sanitation services could be lifesaving: chlorinating water at point of use could save a quarter of the children that prematurely die from water-related issues. "Pollution markets" not only reduce air pollution, they are also extremely cost effective: each $1 spent yields about $26–$215 in benefits.

Source: World Bank

Africa Climate Summit 2: Climate Week

8th September 2025 - 10th September 2025

Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

Convened by the African Union, and the Ethiopian Government, the Second Africa Climate Summit will provide a platform for policymakers, practitioners, businesses and civil society to advance Africa's climate agenda and sustainable development priorities. The ACS2 will be hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 8-10 September, 2025.Pre-summit events and dialogues between 5-7 September 2025 will offer youth, communities and marginalized voices to set the tone and direction for the three-day summit.

ACS-2 is a platform for unifying Africa's voice and leadership in global climate action, advancing African-led climate solutions and catalyzing bold financial and political commitments.At ACS-2, climate leaders will champion new global financing systems, and accelerate climate adaptation, mitigation, and green growth. The summit also seeks to empower communities, especially youth and indigenous groups—while fostering fair partnerships and multilateral cooperation.ACS-2 aims to position Africa not only as a frontline region of climate impacts, but as a powerhouse of global climate solutions.

Key Themes

ACS-2 will spotlight the shifts needed to drive Africa towards a green, prosperous and climate-resilient future: climate finance, nature-based solutions, renewable energy, sustainable food systems, green cities, e-mobility, and indigenous knowledge.

08 September – Nature and technology-based solutions to drive decarbonisation, green growth, and resilient infrastructure

09 September – Adaptation and resilience, spotlighting Africa's climate risks and scalable responses.

10 September – Climate finance and African-led solutions, shifting from aid to investment in local innovation.

Expected Outcomes

Key outcomes include a unified African position for COP, new partnerships, innovation showcases, and commitments to climate finance cumulating in the Addis Ababa Declaration on Climate Change.

Sustainable Energy Conference 2025

The 2025 Sustainable Energy Conference (SEC25) is scheduled to take place from September 17-19, 2025, at Olkaria, Naivasha, Kenya. Organized by KenGen, the Ministry of Energy, Kenya, and Nation Media Group, the event will focus on innovations in geothermal, hydro, wind, and solar energy to advance a greener future for Kenya and Africa.

Key Details:

Event: 2nd Edition of the Sustainable Energy Conference.

Dates: December 17-19, 2025.

Location: Olkaria, Naivasha, Nakuru County.

Organizers: KenGen Kenya, Ministry of Energy, Kenya, and Nation Media Group.

Focus Areas:

- Showcasing innovations in geothermal, hydro, wind, and solar energy.
- Connecting global leaders, investors, and changemakers in the sustainable energy sector.
- Highlighting women in energy.

Africa Energy Efficiency Policy Training Week 2025

The International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Ministry of Energy and Green Transition of Ghana are pleased to co-host the next Africa Energy Efficiency Policy Training Week, taking place in Accra, Ghana, from **20 - 23 October 2025**.

The event is organized in partnership with the African Energy Commission (AFREC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), whose leadership and ongoing work play a vital role in advancing energy efficiency policies across the continent.

This event represents a unique opportunity for policy makers to learn from international best practice and foster a truly international global community of energy efficiency practitioners, helping them to advance the goal of doubling energy efficiency by 2030 while improving people's lives.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Facts on
Climate Change

LIVENOW INC.

Increases of CO2 Recorded in History

Earth's atmospheric concentration of CO2 since the late 1950s – detected at more than 417 parts per million (ppm).

Global Warming Exceeding to 1.5C

Of the emissions scenarios modeled, only the very low emission scenario estimated that the world would see less than 1.5C of warming by the end of the twenty-first century.

Rising of Global Temperatures

The more carbon dioxide – and other warming gasses – that we put into the atmosphere, the higher global temperatures will rise. To have a 50/50 chance of keeping temperatures below two degrees of warming, we must emit fewer than 1,350 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide.

Humans Contributed 1.07C Global Warming

The IPCC report estimates that global surface temperatures are now 1.07C warmer than they were between 1850-1900. Since 1970, global surface temperatures have risen faster than in any 50-year-period over the last 2,000 years

Two-thirds Of Extreme Weather Was Caused by Humans

The number of floods and heavy rains has quadrupled since 1980 and doubled since 2004. Extreme temperatures, droughts and wildfires have also more than doubled in the last 40 years. Carbon Brief, a UK-based website covering climate science, gathered data from 230 studies into "extreme event attribution" and found that 68 percent of all extreme weather events studied in the last 20 years were made more likely or more severe by human-caused climate change.

Rapidly Diminishing of Arctic sea ice

Temperatures in the Arctic are rising faster than almost anywhere else on the planet. Between 2011 and 2020, annual Arctic sea ice reached its lowest level since at least 1850 and late summer Arctic sea ice was smaller than at any time in at least the past 1,000 years.

Rising of Sea Levels

Melting ice sheets and glaciers, and warming oceans lead to higher sea levels. Since 1900, sea levels have risen faster than in any preceding century in at least the last 3,000 years.

Extreme Heat Events

Recent devastating wildfires in Australia, California or southern Europe to see that climate change is leading to more frequent and more severe hot weather events.

Decreases of Average Wildlife Populations

The average size of vertebrate (mammals, fish, birds and reptiles) populations declined by 60 per cent between 1970 and 2014, according to the biennial Living Planet Report published by the Zoological Society of London and the WWF.

Save the Earth today!