



SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY FOR ALL

ENERGY ACCESS  
PRACTITIONER NETWORK

March, 2015

## Energy Access Practitioner Network - monthly call summary

### Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Updates

***Clean Energy Mini-grids High Impact Opportunity area and upcoming meeting in Bellagio, Italy by Martin Niemetz, Sustainable Energy for All, [M.NIEMETZ@SE4ALL.org](mailto:M.NIEMETZ@SE4ALL.org)***

- The High Impact Opportunity areas under SE4All bring together public and private entities to work on sub-sectors of energy with high impact potential.
- The Clean Energy Mini-grids HIO is among the more advanced work streams, with five goals ranging from knowledge management to financing that have been identified, with one organization leading each work stream. For more information on the HIO or to sign up, please visit the HIO [webpage](#).
- A six-month summary report of the HIO's activity to date can be found on the website, showcasing that the HIO stands on a firm foundation for future action. Since its launch, we have seen new synergies along the lines of matching funding with projects. Most of these are still on an ad hoc basis, and the HIO needs to be more strategic in long-term thinking, not only to be a platform for coordination but also to drive the agenda on mini-grids and increase potential for partnerships and projects.
- To this end, a small group of representatives will be meeting in Bellagio, Italy in late March to develop a strategic work plan that will aim to visualize the respective roles of the HIO partners in the next 5 years. Later on, this will give clear direction on benchmarks to be used for measuring progress.
- The strategic plan will be finalized and presented at the upcoming SE4ALL Annual forum in New York in May.

***"Towards Universal Energy Access: Tanzania" SE4All stakeholder consultation for the Action Agenda, by Teresa Engebretson, UN Foundation [tengebretson@unfoundation.org](mailto:tengebretson@unfoundation.org)***

- On February 10 and 11, the United Nations Foundation, in partnership with WWF Tanzania, hosted a two-day workshop titled "Towards Universal Energy Access in Tanzania". UNF and WWF Uganda held a similar stakeholder consultation last summer in Kampala that was also very well received.
- Both workshops were held in support of the United Nations' Sustainable Energy for All initiative's three objectives of universal energy access, doubling the share of renewable energy

in the global energy mix, and doubling the rate of energy efficiency by 2030. The goal was to facilitate a productive discussion between stakeholders in the private sector, government, CSO's, and community leaders and allow them to share best practices in achieving SE4All goals globally and in the Tanzanian energy access space.

- The workshop report will be incorporated into the Tanzanian government's Action Agenda, which will act as a roadmap to bring universal energy access to Tanzania by 2030.
- The event was successful and very well received, featuring upwards of 120 attendees from the private sector, government, NGOs, community leaders and energy innovators. Over the course of 25 speakers and six sessions, panelists highlighted the need for the government to take a more active role as the backstop to public utilities. Throughout the workshop, attendees reiterated the importance of policies and practices originating domestically and energy planning at a community level.
- The second day of the workshop served to introduce Sustainable Energy for All's High Impact Opportunities (HIO) to stakeholders. Attendees heard from panelists on Clean Energy Mini-grids, Energy for Women's and Children's Health, and Clean Cookstoves. The HIOs were well received by attendees and provoked productive conversation around their role in Tanzania. The workshop report is being released this morning and can be accessed on our [website](#) and the SE4All Yammer platform.

## Practitioner Presentations

David Nicol, CapStone Solutions, [david.nicol@hotmail.com](mailto:david.nicol@hotmail.com)

CapStone Solutions was founded in 2003 and started as a service provider for wireless and energy services designed to meet the need for project management and technical consulting. They then added tower building, network integration, and renewable energy additions.

- The organization's goal is to create an energy practice that would meet developing opportunities in wind, solar and smart grid placements. CapStone is currently working on mini-grid solar arrays in the United States and Canada for mobile carriers in a range of harsh environments.
- As Alaska is about two thirds the size of continental United States, it is not feasible to connect rural areas to the grid. Most villages use diesel mini-grids, which causes the power to be very expensive.
- CapStone is a recognized leader in innovation and design for alternative energy solutions and owns the largest solar grid pipeline in Alaska – 14MW.
- Due to the unique weather conditions in Alaska, the product design is climate dependent – including withstanding temperatures of -70F in the winter, with 140mph winds, extreme voltage spiking, and freezing batteries.
- Reliability is the major concern for such an environment, and the telecom industry serves as a good client/anchor tenant as they require reliability at all times. Most systems designed by CapStone do not require maintenance beyond an annual check-up.
- CapStone operates with PPAs, and systems generally pay for themselves in two years or less.

Johanna Diecker, [GOGLA](#) (Global Off-Grid Lighting Association), [j.diecker@gogla.org](mailto:j.diecker@gogla.org)

GOGLA is a non-for profit association with the primary goal to promote lighting solutions to benefit social and developing businesses. GOGLA is hosting the Lighting Global event: “4<sup>th</sup> International Off-Grid Lighting Conference”.

- Date and Location: 26-29 October 2015, Dubai
- Latest market trends report will be presented and attendees will share market lessons and build partnerships to power the next stage of this industry evolution.
- The event will focus on solar lighting and appliance efficiency. During the 3.5-day event, the following streams will be discussed: business development, policy and regulation, quality assurance, technical issues, financing, and the environmental and social impact of lighting.
- The event will enable great networking and business linkages among suppliers, manufacturers, and financial service providers, with a chance to exhibit products.
- For more information please visit <http://conference2015.gogla.org/>.

## **REMINDER: requesting Practitioner Network member materials for website**

As part of the redesign of the energy access website we are updating the profile of our members. Please send in a write-up on your organizational profile, accompanied by impactful photos and your company logo to: [mmahadevan@unfoundation.org](mailto:mmahadevan@unfoundation.org).

## **Upcoming Events**

*Be sure to visit our [News](#) and [Events](#) pages to stay informed on all the latest developments and opportunities!*

## **Annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum, 17-21 May 2015**

Registration is open for the second Annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum at the United Nations in New York, which will be focusing on financing. For more information and to register, please visit [www.se4allforum.org](http://www.se4allforum.org).

- **17<sup>th</sup>: Public Engagement Activities in New York**
- **18-19<sup>th</sup>: Multi Stakeholder Parallel Sessions on Innovations, Sharing Progress and Matchmaking**
- **20<sup>th</sup>: Global Energy Ministerial Dialogue**
- **21<sup>st</sup>: Actions and Commitments Day**

Please submit any questions or expressions of interest to Madhavi Ganeshan at [mganeshan@unfoundation.org](mailto:mganeshan@unfoundation.org) so we can keep a tally of our members planning to be in attendance and arrange our side events accordingly.

## **Updates from Call Participants**

- **Jack Werner, ISP Global [jackfwerner@aol.com](mailto:jackfwerner@aol.com)**: IRENA standards program for certification of solar PV installers in West Africa is continuing to develop and a meeting with representatives from the eight French speaking countries will take place in Burkina Faso in early April.

- **Paul Savage, Next Tech Power Systems** [paul.savage@nextekpower.com](mailto:paul.savage@nextekpower.com): Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) will be hosting the [Future of Energy Summit 2015](#) next month, including the Finance for Resilience ([FiRe](#)) program.
- **Joseph Fernandez, Trade Without Borders**, [joef@tradewithoutborders.org](mailto:joef@tradewithoutborders.org): The Engineering for Change webinar (E4C) presented by Trade Without Borders (TWB) will take place this month. TWB specializes in trading services for global suppliers and local organizations within underserved communities, and has developed the SOLAGEO platform to expand clean energy access.  
Date and Time: March 25, 2015 | 10:00 AM EDT.  
The webinar will provide practical insight on:
  - 1- Product Development: Successfully take your product from concept to launch, scaling up the manufacturing while avoiding the pitfalls along the way,
  - 2- The basis of global logistics management: Getting products to challenging markets
  - 3- Establishing distribution within unserved markets.
 For more information visit <http://engineeringforchange-webinars.org/>.
- **Ling Ng, Alliance for Rural Electrification** [l.ng@ruralelec.org](mailto:l.ng@ruralelec.org):
  - 1- International ARE Energy Access workshop (Madrid, 5 March 2015): Around 150 energy access stakeholders from the public and private sector gathered at the Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad to discuss opportunities in rural electrification markets in a [one-day unique business matchmaking workshop](#). This platform, organised by ARE on a regular basis, assists off-grid market participants to learn about upcoming initiatives and projects in the pipeline as well as to create new business opportunities in the sector.
  - 2- German-African Energy Forum (Hamburg, 4-5 May 2015): The [Forum](#) is the main platform of German-African energy businesses and one of the most important conferences of the sector in Europe. The forum will be the place to meet decision makers of the public and private sector from the African continent, get in touch with German scientists, politicians and entrepreneurs, and stay informed about current issues, projects and opportunities of the African conventional and renewable energy sector. One session, moderated by Marcus Wiemann, ARE Executive Director, will address rural electrification.
  - 3- Off-grid Platform at Intersolar 2015 (Munich, 9-12 June 2015): Intersolar Europe, OTTI, BSW-Solar and ARE will synchronise their activities during Intersolar Europe from 2015 onwards to create a joint OFF-GRID PLATFORM and stimulate synergies.  
Participants will be able to attend the lectures and company presentations, whilst also obtaining information on the recent developments in the off-grid photovoltaic sector. The newly created OFF GRID PLATFORM will serve as the meeting point for the global off-grid sector and scientific community. Feel free to make use of this unique opportunity to promote your company business by joining the Forum with a stand or slot in the programme. Kindly complete the [registration form](#) and return to [Ling Ng](#).

## Nominations open for the Zayed Future Energy Prize

- The Zayed Future Energy Prize was launched by the United Arab Emirates Government in 2008 and has rewarded 39 innovators with more than US\$22 million, and positively affected millions of lives in communities across the world to date.

- The Prize's goal is to inspire the next generation of global energy innovators in order to ensure a future with global sustainable, accessible and affordable energy access. A number of Practitioner Network members have been winners of the SME and NGO categories in previous years.
- Please visit the Zayed Future Energy Prize [website](#) to learn more. Nominations will be closed **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**.