



SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FOR ALL

ENERGY ACCESS
PRACTITIONER NETWORK

Newsletter - November 2016



From the United Nations Foundation

Dear Friends,

I was in Marrakech this month for COP22, the annual Conference of the Parties on climate change, immediately after the U.S. elections. It was a good time to get out of the turbulence of Washington and to see the ferment of constructive, collaborative activity on shifting the world toward climate solutions that range from energy efficiency to agricultural practices that store more carbon in the soil.

With the unexpectedly rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement the outcome of COP21 last December there was a clear and welcome shift of focus from negotiation to implementation, from process to action.

It is also little more than a year since the UN General Assembly approved the Sustainable Development Goals, but every discussion of energy included reference to SDG 7, to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.” As Rachel Kyte, the CEO of Sustainable Energy for All and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, said repeatedly, half of the bargain last year in Paris was to “leave no one behind” in the global transition to clean energy.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum, comprising more than 40 of the world’s poorest countries with 1 billion citizens, asserted that “climate action does not limit development it strengthens it” and pledged to achieve 100% domestic renewable energy production as rapidly as possible.

Finance was recognized as an issue and a challenge, and multiple discussions focused on innovative approaches to bridge the gap between the vast pools of available investment capital and the many viable projects to extend the reach and coverage of distributed energy technologies. The need for a robust pipeline of bankable projects was asserted again and again, as was the need for grants and other concessionary capital to make small projects bankable.

The mood in Marrakech was upbeat and determined, notwithstanding the likelihood that the U.S. will step back from its global leadership role as a result of the recent elections. There is a greater recognition than ever before that public policy can be designed to attract private investment, that the energy access challenge must be addressed with multiple approaches, both on and off grid, and that capital will flow to support those who get the combination right.

Sincerely,



Reid Detchon
Vice President, Energy & Climate Strategy
United Nations Foundation

★ TOP STORIES

[USAID Announces \\$4 Million to Solar Start-Ups for African Off-Grid Energy, Recognizes UN Foundation as Partner](#)

At the 22nd session of the UN Climate conference (COP 22), [Power Africa](#) Coordinator Andrew M. Herscowitz announced \$4 million in new investments to eight companies that are revolutionizing household solar power across Africa through the [Scaling Off-Grid Energy: Grand Challenge for Development](#). The Enterprise Awards are expected to create up to 120,000 additional connections in off-grid communities.

[President Obama Signs Executive Order Establishing Power Africa Working Group](#)

On November 3, US President Barack Obama [signed an Executive Order](#) that will advance the goals of his Power Africa initiative. The Executive Order is aimed at expanding access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa and establishes the Power Africa Working Group, made up of representatives from various executive branch departments and agencies of the US government.

[COP22 Features Global LEAP and Energy Access Partners](#)

Among the activities featured at COP22 in Marrakech were those of the Clean Energy Ministerial's ([CEM](#)) Global Lighting and Energy Access Partnership ([Global LEAP](#)) and its partners. With the increased focus on energy access, Global LEAP plays an expanding role in achieving commitments established during and after COP21.

[ADB to Provide \\$500 Million to India for Solar Rooftop Systems](#)

The Asian Development Bank ([ADB](#)) is set to provide \$500 million in financing for rooftop solar systems that will help the Indian government expand energy access using renewable energy. ADB will provide the financing to Punjab National Bank one of India's largest commercial banks which will use the funds to make loans to developers and end users throughout India to install rooftop solar systems.

[Read more](#)

💰 FUNDING & INVESTMENT

[D-Prize: Expanding Access to Poverty Alleviation Solutions in the Developing World | Deadline December 15](#)

[Requests for Proposals \(RFP\) to Design Framework Agreements for Solar and Wind in Antigua and Barbuda | Deadline December 21](#)

The 2016-17 Global LEAP Awards Off-Grid Television and Off-Grid Fan Competition Open for Nominations | Deadline January 20

[Read more](#)

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

[d.Light Secures \\$7.5 Million from Developing World Markets, Raising Total of \\$30 Million This Year](#)

[Off Grid Electric and EDF Team Up in Offering a New Off-Grid Solar Power Solution for Rural Areas in West Africa](#)

[Greenlight Planet Unveils "The Sun King Charge" – Affordable Solar Light and Mobile Charging Solution](#)

[Boond and Mera Gao Power, Winners of 'Solar for All' Contest, to Build Micro-Grids in India](#)

[Mobisol Joins the Business Call to Action with a Commitment to Connect 800,000 Kenyans with Clean, Affordable Solar Energy](#)

[Total Connects with Microgrid Start-up PowerHive to Improve Energy Access in East Africa](#)

[SunCulture Plans Africa Expansion with Solar Irrigation Kits](#)

[Read more](#)

NEW TOOLS & RESOURCES

[Solar Lantern Competition 2016](#)

[Sendea](#) in collaboration with [Sun-Connect News](#) is pleased to announce the launch of a new practitioner competition: Solar Lantern Competition 2016. Many solar lamps are now available in the market, with different specifications and in different price brackets. Numerous lamps have been tested in laboratories. In order to determine which lamp is the best in practice, the competition invites practitioners to rate the products by how they perform in daily practice, which lamp is best in handling, and their durability in practical use. The ratings will be evaluated on December 18, 2016.

[Read more](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight: MPOWERD

MPOWERD is a New York City-based company that creates innovative and affordable products to help people fit clean energy into their daily lives. In 2012 MPOWERD created

Luci, an inflatable solar light, with the goal of making an affordable clean energy product that people could use in any situation — from outdoor camping adventures to backyard parties to everyday living for people without access to electricity.

[Read more](#)



Photo Credit: MPOWERD

SECTOR NEWS

PR Newswire

[Bank of America Charitable Foundation Provides \\$500,000 Grant to GivePower Foundation to Help Provide Solar Energy to Communities in Developing Countries](#)

Climate Action UNEP

[The Uptake of Off-Grid Solar Systems in Africa](#)

Asia & the Pacific Policy Society

[Energy Access and a Light-Bulb Moment: How Stronger Collaboration on Renewables will Benefit the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

[Read more](#)

NEW ENERGY ACCESS REPORTS

Bloomberg New Energy Finance

[Financing India's Clean Energy Transition](#)

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership

[AEEP Energy Access Best Practices 2016](#)

GIZ

[Mini-Grid Sizing Guidebook](#)

[Read more](#)

GROWING THE NETWORK

Welcome to the following organizations that have joined the Practitioner Network in the past month:

Columbia

[Digg United Energy Ltda](#)

India

[Maanaveeya Development & Finance](#)
[Renom Energy Services](#)

Mali

[ACCESS](#)

United Kingdom

[Energy 2050 Institute, University of Sheffield](#)
[Solapak Systems](#)

United States

[Energy Action Partners](#)
[Sigora International](#)

Zimbabwe

[Stimulus Investments](#)

 **EVENTS CALENDAR**

West African Power Industry Convention (WAPIC)

November 23-24, 2016
Lagos, Nigeria

SOLAR-TEC

December 4-6, 2016
Cairo, Egypt

The Africa Energy Forum: Off the Grid

December 7-9, 2016
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Renewable ENERGY World International

December 13-15, 2016
Orlando, USA

4th International Conference and Exhibition on Energy Storage and Microgrids

January 12-13, 2017
Mumbai, India

World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2017

January 16-19, 2017
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Power Tech Africa 2017

January 30-31, 2017
Nairobi, Kenya

Africa Energy Indaba

February 21-22, 2017
Johannesburg, South Africa

World Sustainable Energy Days 2017

March 1-3, 2017
Wels, Austria

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