

CLEAN ENERGY MINI-GRIDS NEWSLETTER

August 2017 Edition



FEATURE STORY

Powerhive Boosts Solar Energy Consumption Through Their New Productive Use Program

Following the successful launch of a mini-grid pilot project in Western Kenya, **Powerhive** is testing demand for a new product - chickens. Through funding from **USAID's Development Innovation Ventures**, the company's newly launched program, Kuku Poa or "Better Chickens" in Swahili, is enabling customers to access training and assets for the rearing and marketing of poultry products. Andrew Herscovitz, USAID's Power Africa Coordinator, said the program is "proud to count Powerhive as one of its partners. The move towards leasing productive use appliances not only provides customers with the products they want, it drives economic growth in the community."

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POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Mini-Grids: A Key Piece to Africa's Energy Access Puzzle

By: Daniel Schroth, SEforALL - Africa Hub Coordinator, African Development Bank

To address Africa's energy challenges, the African Development Bank (AfDB) launched the New Deal on Energy for Africa, which targets universal energy access in Africa by 2025, five years earlier than sustainable development goal (SDG) 7. The New Deal recognises that this will not be possible through grid extensions alone and therefore includes a target of connecting 75 million through off-grid systems. Accordingly, the Bank has been increasing its focus both on the mini-grids sector and on the solar home systems sector through the "Off-Grid Revolution" launched earlier this year.

ECOWAS Sets Goal of 60,000 Clean Energy Mini-Grid Units by 2020

The interest for clean energy mini-grids based on the use of locally available renewable energy sources has been growing in West Africa with at least 268 systems already operational. Governments of ECOWAS member states see clean energy mini-grid (CEMG) deployment as a way to improve the power sector and expand electricity access. However, the lack of clear policy and regulatory instruments still remains a main barrier for large-scale deployment.



TOOLS & RESOURCES

SEforALL Launches Newly Updated 'Heat Maps' to Pinpoint Country-by-Country Progress and Challenges on Sustainable Energy

Using the latest energy data from its knowledge partners, Sustainable Energy for ALL (SEforAll) has launched newly updated 'heat maps' that help identify countries and regions around the world making the

most progress - and facing the biggest challenges - on key sustainable energy issues. The four sets of heat maps are focused on electricity access, energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean cooking - all key topics of Sustainable Development Goal 7, which calls for achieving affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

Standardised Risk Management Procedure (SRMP) for Mini-Grids: The Case of West Bengal, India

Rural electrification by using mini-grids has been the objective of many development policies over the past years. Most mini-grid project failures are due to poor suitability for user needs, local conditions and expectations of investors, and several other risks. To shed light on the principles and processes involved in determining a mini-grid risk rating, this paper develops and elaborates a risk rating model based on a standardized risk management procedure (SRMP). Five key criteria were outlined and explained in detail using an empirical case study on a mini-grid located in India. Ultimately, this paper aims to provide a methodology for structuring mini-grid risk rating.



NEWS

Power Africa Identifies New Grid Connections in Uganda Including Over 100 Mini-Grid Sites

During the [Power Africa](#) Uganda Partnership Day, Power Africa Coordinator Andrew M. Herscowitz handed over plans to the Government of Uganda for three rural electricity service territories, which identified 140,000 potential new connections and over 100 mini-grid sites that further advance Power Africa's goal of creating new connections through grid extensions and off-grid projects. The master plans will play a fundamental role in the achievement of the Government of Uganda's 2013-2022 Rural Electrification Strategy and Plan.

India Ministry of Power: 4,220 Distributed Generation Projects Worth Rs. 1354.60 Crores Sanctioned

The Minister of State for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal, informed the House about the steps taken by the Government for electrification of villages situated in backward and remote areas of the country through new and renewable energy sources. The Minister stated that under the Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti (DDUGJY) scheme, electricity access is provided to all villages/habitations where grid connectivity is not feasible or cost effective - including mini-grids and standalone systems. As of June 30, 2017, 4,220 projects have been sanctioned with project costs of Rs. 1354.60 crore, in various States across the country. All of the remaining un-electrified villages are targeted to be electrified by May 2018.

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EVENTS

**5th Microgrid Global
Innovation Forum**

September 5-6
Barcelona, Spain

**2017 International
Renewable Energy
Conference**

September 11-13
Mexico City, Mexico

**Unlocking Business
Opportunities for Solar
Energy in Senegal**

September 25-28
Dakar, Senegal

**Off-Grid Experts
Workshop**

September 27-29
Memmingen, Germany

**Unlocking Solar Capital:
Asia 2017**

September 28-29
Singapore

**Talking Business:
Microfinance for
Decentralised Renewables
in Africa**

October 9
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Send us your suggestions of news, events and updates for the newsletter at
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