

## SPOTLIGHT



## The Practitioner Network Chats with Bidhaa Sasa

In this issue's interview spotlight, the co-founders of Bidhaa Sasa, a last-mile product distributor in Kenya, discuss their experience in distributing household energy access goods and innovative methods for reaching rural low-income women.

[Read the Interview](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ACTION AWARDS

DEADLINE: JANUARY 30, 2019

The annual UN SDG Action Awards recognize individuals, subnational governments, civil society organizations, foundations, networks, and private sector leaders who are advancing the global movement for the SDGs in an impactful way. Finalists will be invited to feature their work at the Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development in Bonn, Germany.

## **TRANSFORMING ENERGY ACCESS (TEA)**

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2019

The TEA program is issuing a call for expression of interest for productive energy use action research projects in sub-Saharan Africa. A total budget of at least £675,000 has been made available in this round for grants to 3/ 4 successful applicants. Funding requests should not exceed £300,000, and smaller expressions of interest are welcome.

## **OFF-GRID CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY: BENIN**

DEADLINE: MARCH 8, 2019

The Off-Grid Clean Energy Facility (OCEF) provides grant funding to proven, sustainable off-grid clean energy solutions nationwide in Benin. Their second window of proposals on decentralized generation and distribution of electricity is now open. Please note that the application must be submitted in French.

## **WORLD WILDLIFE FUND- INDIA: CLIMATE SOLVER 2018**

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2018

Applications are open to small and medium enterprises providing sustainable solutions to enhancing energy access, including those working on innovations in energy efficiency, smart grid, and renewable energy. Winners will receive an increased public profile, expanded market outreach, and access to knowledge resources, among other benefits.

## **MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**



**Desert Solar Initiative to make Africa  
a Renewable Energy Powerhouse**

Solar projects stretching across the Sahel region in Africa are expected to connect 250 million people with electricity by tapping into the region's abundant solar resource. The details of the "Desert to Power Initiative" have been outlined as part of the Paris Agreement climate change talks at COP24 in Katowice, Poland.

### **"Energy Access Booster" awards provides support for energy access entrepreneurs in Africa**

Five African entrepreneurs- Agsol, Kivu Green Energy, Mucho Mangoes, Solar Freeze and Sunny Irrigation- were named the inaugural recipients of the "Energy Access Booster" awards for their work on green mini-grids, sustainable mobility, refrigeration, and energy for drinking water and agriculture.

### **ENGIE purchases 90 percent of Simpa Energy India from parent company**

ENGIE announced that it has acquired a controlling stake in Simpa Energy India Pvt Ltd, the leading rural rooftop solar provider in India, and is investing to fund geographic expansion and accelerate growth.

### **FMO and consortium partners invest USD \$41M in d.light to help scale the rapidly growing off-grid energy company**

Through a Consortium led by Inspired Evolution, FMO, Swedfund and Norfund, along with other partners, are investing \$41M to expand d.light's solar and Pay-Go consumer finance business in Africa.

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## **NEW PRACTITIONER NETWORK MEMBERS**

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**Bernt Lorentz - BRIGHT Products - Chiltern Africa - Cornerstone Capital Advisors - DreamGains Financial India - EEP Africa - GIZ - HYBRIID-X Energy - IFC-World Bank Group, Istanbul - Michael & Son Services - Monguimet-Mwamba - NESELTEC Ltd. - Oilea - Olimin Solar Photovoltaics Private Ltd - PowerWorld Ghana - Quintas Renewable Energy Solutions Ltd - Rural Urban Solar Energy - Shamwari Biogas - SusConnect Private Ltd - UNDP - WESAF Energy Solutions Ltd - Zambia Association of Junior Researchers**

## FEATURED RESOURCES



### [Powering the Crowd Into the Future](#)

Energy 4 Impact released their fifth and final report in their Crowd Power series on crowd-sourced financing for energy access businesses and projects. This report highlights market growth trends, key crowd-sourcing models, and the role of philanthropic funders in the space.

[READ MORE](#)

## FROM THE NETWORK

### [Update on Practitioner Network Activities](#)

Practitioner Network Manager, Ruchi Soni, wraps up the year by giving an update on the team's participation and presentation at several events and shines a light on the work on local off-grid energy in small and medium enterprises.

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