



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

Energy is opportunity. It transforms lives. Economies. And our planet.

Without access to sustainable energy, there can be no sustainable development. One person in five on the planet still lacks access to modern electricity. Twice that number, three billion people, rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. In a global economy, this is inequitable—and unsustainable.

In industrialized countries the problem is one of waste, not shortage, due to inefficient energy use. Throughout the world, excessive dependence on fossil-fuel based energy also contributes significantly to the dangerous warming of our planet. Climate change puts us all at risk, but it hurts the poor first - and worst.

The key to both challenges is to provide sustainable energy for all – energy that is accessible, cleaner and more efficient.

Sustainable energy provides new opportunities for growth during the economic downturn. Sustainable energy enables businesses to grow, generate jobs, and create new markets. Millions more children can study after dark. Countries can grow more resilient, competitive economies. With sustainable energy, countries can leapfrog over the limits of the energy systems of the past and build the clean energy economies of the future.

Sustainable energy for all is an investment in our collective future.

Sustainable energy can revitalize our economies, strengthen social equity, and catalyze a clean energy revolution that benefits all humanity. Acting together, we can open new horizons today and help power a brighter tomorrow.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The Sustainable Energy for All Initiative

The United Nations Secretary-General recently launched a pioneering new initiative, “**Sustainable Energy for All,**” to mobilize urgent global action.

The Initiative brings all sectors of society to the table: business, governments, investors, community groups and academia. The United Nations is the ideal institution to convene this broad swathe of actors and forge common cause in support of three inter-linked objectives:

- **Ensure universal access** to modern energy services.
- **Double the rate** of improvement in energy efficiency.
- **Double the share** of renewable energy in the global energy mix.



These objectives are complementary. Progress in achieving one can help with progress toward the others. All are to be achieved by 2030, and all are necessary to achieve sustainable energy for all.

The Secretary-General's Initiative contributes to the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All in 2012, as declared by all UN Member States, by mobilizing action from all key stakeholders.

Leadership that Energizes

Two leading figures from the worlds of business and public service, Charles Holliday, Chairman of Bank of America, and Kandeh Yumkella, Chair of UN-Energy and Director-General of the UN Industrial Development Organization, co-chair the Secretary-General's High-level Group. Together with other distinguished members of the High-level Group, they will mobilize commitments from all sectors of society to expand energy access, improve efficiency, and increase the uptake of renewable energy.

Commitments that Catalyze Action

New and scaled-up commitments to sustainable energy for all will drive action on the ground. At Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General will invite all stakeholders to announce their commitments in support of an Action Agenda that generates game-changing momentum for a sustainable energy future.

Action commitments will be transparent and monitored. Commitments will be forged in corporate board rooms, government ministries, and thousands of local communities around the world and take many forms.

- **Governments** can develop national energy plans and targets, provide financial support, and remove counterproductive tariffs and subsidies.
- **Companies** can make their operations and supply chains more energy efficient and form public-private partnerships to expand sustainable energy products and services.
- **Investors** can provide seed money for clean technologies and invest in both on- and off-grid energy solutions.
- **Industry, government, and academia** can contribute new research. **Civil society groups** can train people, conduct advocacy, and encourage transparency.

Building the Future We Want through Sustainable Energy

The Rio+20 Conference (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) is but the opening chapter of this initiative. Efforts to expand sustainable energy have already begun and will accelerate over the coming two decades.

Sustainable energy for all is an idea whose time has come. Turning ideas into action depends on us all.

There is no time like the present to power a brighter future.