



SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FOR ALL

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ENERGY IS POWERING
OPPORTUNITY.
IT TRANSFORMS
*lives, economies, &
our planet.*

Sustainable development is not possible without sustainable energy. One person in five on the planet still lacks access to electricity. Twice that number, three billion people, rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. In today's economy, this is inequitable – a major barrier to eradicating poverty.

In industrialized countries the energy problem is one of waste and pollution, not shortage. Throughout the world, inefficient energy use harms economic productivity and energy-related emissions contribute 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.

*“Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth – **these are one and the same fight.**”*

-UNITED NATIONS
SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON
21 Sept. 2011

A PIONEERING NEW INITIATIVE

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is leading a global initiative on Sustainable Energy for All to mobilize action from all sectors of society: business, governments, investors, community groups and academia. The United Nations is the ideal institution to convene this broad swath of actors and forge common cause in support of three interlinked objectives:

1 ENSURE
universal access
TO MODERN ENERGY SERVICES.

2 DOUBLE THE GLOBAL RATE OF IMPROVEMENT IN
energy efficiency.

3 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 the UN General Assembly, by providing a focus for action by all 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 on Sustainable Energy for All. 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 BENEFIT ALL

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 the use of 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 to technology innovation. Civil society groups can train entrepreneurs, engage in advocacy, and demand accountability.

BUILDING THE FUTURE WE WANT

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.** Working together, we can power a brighter future.



1 IN 5
PEOPLE WORLDWIDE
lack access to electricity.



4 IN 5
EXECUTIVES
say that energy efficiency will play a more important role in their business in the future.



AT LEAST
118
COUNTRIES
now have policy targets on renewable energy.

**SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY IS
POWERING progress.**