



RIO+20 POLICY

100% ENERGY ACCESS

23 April 2012

Vision

Access to clean, reliable and affordable energy is fundamental to poverty eradication, health, reducing environmental degradation and mitigating climate change.

Energy access is essential for poverty eradication and equally important is to ensure supply of energy does not contribute to additional CO₂ emissions; avoids dependence on volatile energy prices and expensive fossil fuels; avoids negative externalities and deepening of social and environmental negative effects; contributes to decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions; and is supplied through economically favourable off-grid solutions in the case of rural electricity supply. For these reasons, achieving energy access goals are best achieved through the use of renewable energy and related technologies.

Opportunities for Rio+20

Rio+20's outcome document represents an opportunity for 193 countries to **agree on new common language** to help advance energy access for all, notably:

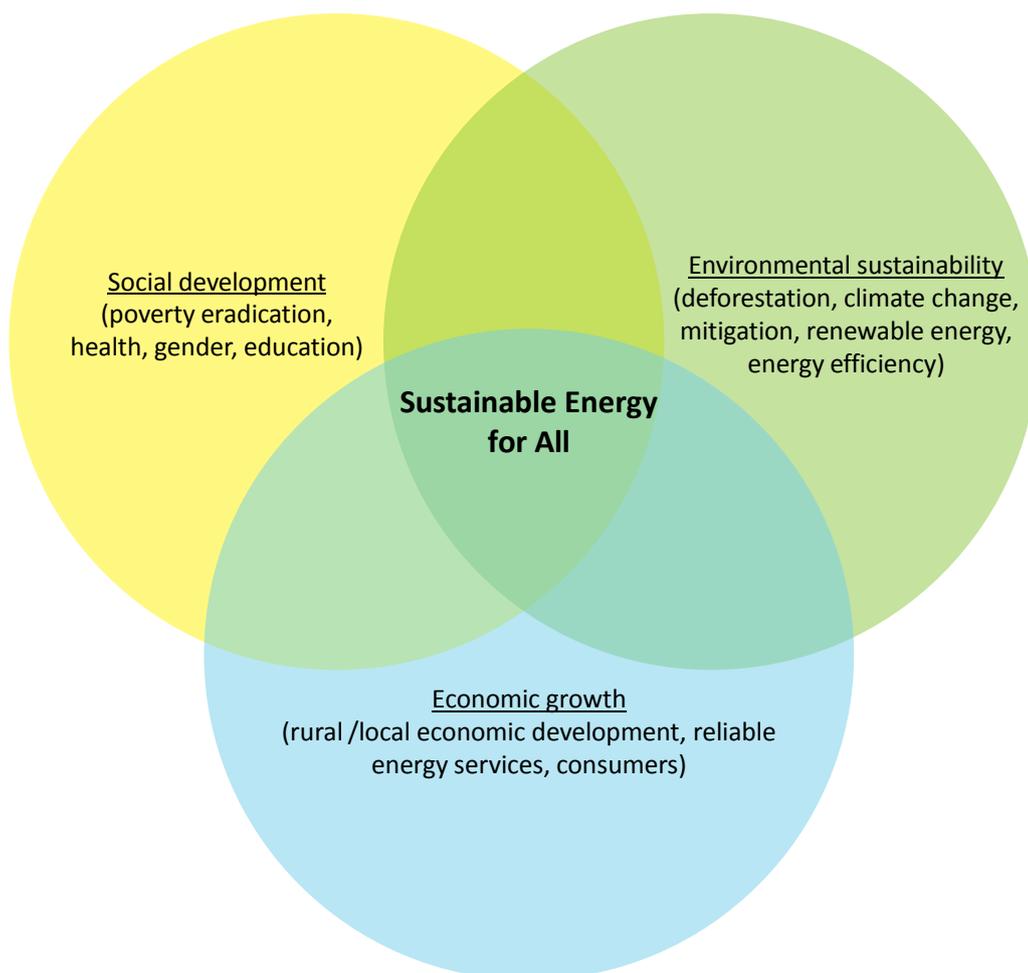
- ▶ “We endorse that access to electricity for the rural poor is best achieved through the development and use of renewable energy sources that take into account social and environmental safeguards and are locally feasible.”
- ▶ “We acknowledge that for rural areas off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy technologies are the economically most viable option and commit to supporting the dissemination and development of decentralized renewable energy generation and distribution.”
- ▶ “We commit to adopting strong, effective and predictable institutional and regulatory frameworks for achieving national targets on energy access; and commit to creating an enabling investment environment, including adequate policy tools, and specific sector targets.”
- ▶ “We agree to developing and committing to nationally defined specific and clear energy access targets for the short and mid-term with a view to achieving 100% energy access on national level by 2030. Such targets will be supported by realistic implementation frameworks and plans developed through inclusive multi-stakeholder processes promoting participation and engagement of all civil society groups in particular vulnerable and marginal groups.”

- ▶ “Developed country governments commit to supporting technology cooperation for the dissemination of clean and affordable energy solutions, including providing technical capacity building on national level for private sector, government institutions and civil society through our regular donor cooperation.”
- ▶ “We commit to providing adequate financial resources, of sufficient quantity for planning and implementation. In particular, we recognize that in average we need to deliver 48billion USD per year in investments for achieving universal access to energy. We commit to delivering new, adequate and predictable financing through public funds while leveraging private investments.”

Energy as a Goal to 2030

At Rio+20, Parties need to set out a clear goals for 100% energy access by 2030, while taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development.

In this light the energy goal would, by 2030, (1) achieve universal access to energy; (2) include 40% renewable energy in the global mix; (3) provide financing of 48USD billion per year for implementation.



Social development: Improving livelihoods, health and education including through improved public facilities (schools, hospitals), improved living conditions for women and children.

- ▶ **Target:** Universal access to energy by 2030 to be achieved through national targets, regulatory frameworks and implementation strategies taking into account stakeholder participation, transparency, accountability and engaging vulnerable groups.

Environmental sustainability: Deforestation, combating climate change, promoting environmentally sound technologies, keeping temperature increase to below 2 degrees.

- ▶ **Target:** National targets and goals promote decentralised renewable energy generation and distribution that takes into account environmental safeguards and is adapted to local context. Globally governments commit to 40% renewable energy by 2030 and tripling the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

Economic growth: Accelerating local and rural economic growth, creation of business and employment, reducing dependency on volatile energy prices and expensive fossil fuels, decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions.

- ▶ **Target:** The provision of affordable and sustainable energy spurs economic growth in particular in rural areas. Overall global investment in renewable energy for energy access increases to 48USD billion year. Energy technology cooperation between countries is explored and new partnerships formed.

Comment on New Co-Chairs Streamlined Text

It is encouraging that the CST has linked energy to achieving objectives such as food and water security, and gender equality (§pre64quint, 64, 67, 68, 70). The CST's section on "Energy (§pre70-72) itself, however, lacks clarity and should be improved. CST should reaffirm the target of keeping global temperature increase below 2°C as pledged in the UNFCCC and G20 which it has taken out of §Pre70. It should include explicit commitment for the implementation of adequate regulatory frameworks and strategies at the national level for achieving energy access by 2030, including clear milestones and targets. Such strategies and frameworks need to be developed and implemented through a multistakeholder process (§71). The CST also does not define what sustainable energy sources are, opening the possibility of unsustainable energy technologies. WWF urges the promotion of "clean, safe, reliable and affordable renewable energy technologies" understood as wind, solar, sustainable hydro and sustainable biomass. WWF also urges CST to endorse access to electricity for the rural poor as being best achieved through the use and promotion of off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy technologies. A paragraph is also needed on the financial amounts are needed to achieve energy access and how these are to be delivered. In particular developed countries should clearly state their commitments and intentions.

Background on Energy Access

Access to clean, safe, reliable and affordable renewable energy is fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development. About 1.3 billion people have only erratic or no access to electricity and 2.7 billion people mostly in impoverished regions of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa meet the majority of their energy needs with biomass (charcoal, fuel wood, agricultural waste and dung) for cooking and heating. Based on IEA's scenario of 'Present Policies' the number of people relying on traditional use of biomass is expected to even rise from 2.7 billion today to 2.8 billion in 2030.

The unsustainable use of biomass and coal for cooking has severe consequences. About 1.5 million people die each year from indoor pollution caused by inefficient use and smoke from these resources by open fires. The IEA estimates that household air pollution from the use of biomass and coal will continue to lead to over 1.5 million premature deaths per year in 2030. This would be higher than estimates for premature deaths from malaria and tuberculosis combined or HIV/AIDS (WHO / IEA figures).

Just as a revolution in energy access is essential for poverty eradication, it is equally important that this coming revolution supplies energy that does not contribute to additional CO₂ emissions; avoids dependence on volatile energy prices and expensive fossil fuels; avoids negative externalities and deepening of social and environmental negative effects; contributes to decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions; and is supplied through economically favourable off-grid solutions in the case of rural electricity supply. For these reasons, WWF argues that achieving energy access goals are best achieved through the use of renewable energy and related technologies that take into account social and environmental safeguards and are adapted to local circumstances.



Why we are here.

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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