
Energy plays a crucial role in fighting poverty. Access to electricity can drastically improve quality of life. Households are more productive and generate more income as parents are able to use electrical appliances for work and children have light for studying. Access to electricity also adds value to small businesses. Today, more than 1.4 billion people still live without access to a source of electricity and an additional one billion have only infrequent access. The majority of these people are living in rural areas, to where extending the national electricity grid is too expensive.

In order to meet this energy challenge, practical and affordable approaches are needed. The private sector is introducing innovative business models that ensure energy access for the poor, while creating new market opportunities through clean energy solutions.

Business Call to Action member companies implementing inclusive business models in the energy sector include:

**Abellon CleanEnergy** is investing in biomass production and power generation facilities in Ghana. One million customers in Ghana will receive sustainable energy access furthering economic development in the country, while at the same time providing employment opportunities for 25,000 people. Through an Integrated Sustainable Bio Energy Model comprised of an afforestation program, biomass fuel conversion plant, and bioenergy production facility, Abellon CleanEnergy is developing its competitive advantage in clean energy production.

**Nuru Energy** is expanding its business to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania providing affordable, safe and clean modular LED Lights to 2 million rural households by 2016. Nuru Energy deploys this technology via a network of microfranchises operated by village level entrepreneurs (VLEs), who sell Nuru Lights and then provide recharging services for a small fee using the Nuru POWERCycle. The company will to grow its network of rural energy entrepreneurs to 10,000 women and men.

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Guide can be found on: [http://www.businesscalltoaction.org/resources/resource-guides](http://www.businesscalltoaction.org/resources/resource-guides)
Resources Section

Funding Sources

**ACP – EU Energy Facility** – a co-financing instrument to support projects on increasing access to sustainable and affordable energy services for the poor living in rural and peri-urban areas.

**Acumen Fund** and its Energy Portfolio - seek to reduce costs and increase access to a wider range of previously unavailable products and services for the world’s poor.

**African Development Bank Group** - assists African countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic development and social progress, including financing for Energy & Power.

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and its **Clean Energy Program** - invests in energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives that expand access to energy, particularly in remote rural regions where coverage remains limited.

**Avantage Ventures** - an investment and advisory firm promoting investments in social ventures for positive social and environmental change demonstrating financial viability.

**Bridges Ventures** - a sustainable growth investor whose commercial expertise is used to deliver both financial returns and social and environmental benefits.

**CDC of UK Department for International Development (DFID)** - invest in a commercially sustainable manner in the poorer countries of the developing world and to attract other investors by demonstrating success.

**Climate Investment Funds** - helps developing countries pilot transformations in clean technology, sustainable management of forests, increased energy access through renewable energy, and climate-resilient development.

**Kyoto Protocol** and its **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** - allows countries to meet part of their caps using “Certified Emission Reductions” from CDM emission reduction projects in developing countries.

**E+Co** - makes clean energy investments in developing countries.

**Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF)** - a public private partnership able to provide long-term debt or mezzanine finance for the construction and development of private infrastructure across sub-Saharan Africa.

**Emerging Capital Partners (ECP)** - a private equity group that has raised more than US$1.8 billion for investment in companies across the African continent.

**Enertech Capital** - focuses on funding energy ventures and micro-infrastructure projects addressing cleaner, cheaper, and more efficient energy usage.

**Equilibrium Capital Group** - an investment firm focusing on sectors impacted by resource constraints and sustainability.

**FinnFund** - promotes economic and social development in developing countries by financing responsible and profitable private projects.

**FMO** - provides capital, promotes knowledge exchange and creates partnerships that support and grow lasting economic, environmental and social development.

**Global Environment Facility (GEF)** - unites 182 member governments in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to address global environmental issues.

**Gray Ghost Ventures** - an impact investment firm providing market-based capital solutions to entrepreneurs who are addressing the needs of low-income communities in emerging markets.

**GroFin** - offers a combination of finance, expert business support and guidance to entrepreneurs with small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

**Grupo ECOS** - manages two private equity/investment funds (Ecos Sustainable Equity Fund, Inc. and Ecos Forestry Fund Inc.), both with a focus on Latin America, active in selected sustainable development segments.

**InfraCo Africa** - a donor-funded infrastructure development company acting as an “honest broker” seeking to create viable infrastructure investment opportunities.

**Innovations Against Poverty (IAP) – the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)**’s risk sharing mechanism for sustainable business ventures which have a strong potential to reduce poverty

**Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Opportunities for the Majority** - finances market-based, sustainable business models. On Energy, IDB finances programs to improve energy efficiency, foster cross-border energy integration, and diversify the energy matrix by sustainably exploiting renewable and non-renewable energy sources.

**International Finance Corporation (IFC)** through **Infrastructure** - provides financial and advisory support to renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

**Inerijys Ventures** - a US$1 billion fund that invests in wind, sun, marine and biofuel power generation, energy storage, transmission and distribution, and smart-grid systems.

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**Norfund** - an investment company intended to develop and establish profitable and sustainable enterprises in poor countries. A key investment area is **renewable energy**.

**Private Sector Investment Programme (PSI)** - a subsidy programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Development Cooperation that supports innovative investment projects in emerging markets.

**PROPARCO** - an investment and promotions company for economic cooperation partly held by **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** and private shareholders financing operations which are economically viable, socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and financially profitable.

**Sarona Asset Management** - an impact investment asset manager targeting market financial returns in frontier markets.

**Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SEAF)** - an investment management group that provides growth capital and business assistance to SMEs in emerging and transition markets underserved by traditional sources of capital.

**SustainVC** - makes investments in the early and expansion stages of companies that provide social and environmental benefit to the world, including the area of energy.

**Swefund** - provides risk capital, expertise and financial support for investments in emerging markets.

**Key Actors**

**Ceres** - leads a national coalition of investors, environmental organizations and other public interest groups working with companies to address sustainability challenges such as global climate change and water scarcity.

**Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)** - a non-profit environmental advocacy group working on issues often through market-based solutions to environmental problems.

**European Union Energy Initiative (EUEI)** - contributes to providing access to energy necessary for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Global Wind Energy Council** - the global wind industry trade association, providing a credible and representative forum for the wind energy sector at the international level.

**International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** - a membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. One key focus area is **Sustainable Energy**.

**International Energy Agency (IEA)** - an autonomous organization which works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 28 member countries and beyond.

**International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** - promotes the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy.

**United Nations Department for Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA) and the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)** - an authoritative source of expertise within the United Nations system on sustainable development, including the area of energy and transport.

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** - the **Environment & Energy** practice area focuses on matters related to environment and access to energy that also includes climate change.

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** - provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** - an international treaty, most countries joined a decade ago, to begin to consider what can be done to reduce global warming and to cope with whatever temperature increases are inevitable.

**United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)** - promotes socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

**United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** - the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

**World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)** - a CEO-led, global association of some 200 companies dealing exclusively with business and sustainable development.

**World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE)** - focused on developing policies and strategies for renewable energy.

**World Resources Institute (WRI)** - a global environmental think tank focuses on **Climate, Energy & Transport**. Its **New Ventures** accelerates the growth of environmental enterprises in emerging markets.

**Partnerships**

**2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All** - in recognition of the importance of energy for sustainable
economic development, the United Nations General Assembly has designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and its **The Energy for All Partnership** - with a goal to provide access to energy to 100 million people in the region by 2015.

**Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI)** - working with governments and businesses around the world to address the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions focusing on cities, clean energy, and forests.

**Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves** - a public-private initiative to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

**Global Bioenergy Partnership** - brings together public, private and civil society stakeholders in a joint commitment to promote bioenergy for sustainable development.

**Global Methane Initiative (GMI)** - urges stronger international action to fight climate change by reducing emissions from methane, while developing clean energy.

**Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership** - international organization composed of leading electricity companies to promote sustainable energy development through electricity sector projects and human capacity building activities.

**International Council for Sustainable Energy (ICSE)** - an alliance representing more than 500 companies with commercial interests in the expansion of global sustainable energy and energy efficiency markets.

**Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st century (REN21)** - convenes international multi-stakeholder leaders to enable a rapid global transition to renewable energy.

**Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)** - a non-profit, specialist change agent aiming to catalyze the market for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**United Nations Global Compact Caring for Climate** - a voluntary action platform for UN Global Compact members seeking to demonstrate leadership on climate change.

**World Alliance for Decentralized Energy (WADE)** - a membership platform that works to accelerate the worldwide development of high efficiency cogeneration, onsite power and decentralized renewable energy systems.

**Climate Change Business Journal** - provides detailed market research on the climate change industry.

**Environment News Service (ENS)** - exists to present late-breaking environmental news in a fair and balanced manner.

**Environmental News Network (ENN)** - online news network providing a global perspective on environmental issues.

**Gateway to the United Nations System’s Work on Climate Change** - resource portal on the UN and climate change.

**Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development** - a **UNEP** - facilitated knowledge network to carry out policy analysis on thematic energy issues.

**GreenBiz.com** - source for news, opinion, best practices, and other resources on the greening of mainstream business.

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** - international body for the assessment of climate change.

**International Energy Agency (IEA)** and its **World Energy Outlook** - a leading source of energy market analysis and projections, providing critical analytical insights into trends in energy demand and supply.

**International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** - an independent international research organization specializing in sustainable development.

**International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** - a public policy research institute conducting cutting-edge research into sustainable development.

**reGeel** - a clean energy information portal that provides access to the latest high quality information on renewables, energy efficiency and climate change.

**SustainableBusiness.com** - provides global news and networking services to help green business grow.

**The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** - focuses on development of solutions to global problems in the fields of energy, environment and current patterns of development.

**UN-Energy Knowledge Network** - promotes coherence within the UN family of organizations in the energy field and to develop increased collective engagement between the UN and other key external stakeholders.

**Worldwatch Institute** - an independent research institute devoted to the analysis of global environmental concerns.