



# Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership's Commitments to Sustainable Energy for All

## About the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership

The Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership, is a non-profit international organization, composed of the world's leading electricity companies, whose mission is to play an active role in global electricity issues within the international framework and to promote sustainable energy development through electricity sector projects and human capacity building activities in developing and emerging nations worldwide.

The organization, in partnership with UN agencies, key international organizations and local partners, contributes to enhancing access to energy for some of the 1.4 billion people around the world still without access to this essential resource.

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The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative captures the key message of the 21st century for sustainable development including climate change mitigation and adaptation: the time has come to turn ideas into actions. Mobilizing action from all sectors of society is vital to achieve the objectives of the UN SE4ALL initiative. With its mission to promote sustainable energy development, the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership (GSEP) – whose members represent around 30% of global electricity production – is proud to respond to the call for action by pledging the following immediate contributions to the SE4ALL initiative:

- 1) Provision of 50,000 solar lanterns that will increase access to clean electricity to off-grid households in partnership with the Global BrightLight Foundation;
- 2) Expansion of its current capacity-building workshops, in developing countries, aimed at transferring its members' business know-how and expertise in electrification projects to help develop local, regional and sub national capacities and improve understanding of local circumstances;
- 3) Funding of the development of Electrification Roadmaps for Southern Africa, which aims to show how to provide access to electricity for 500 million people in the region by 2025, and for other underserved areas of the world.

GSEP believes that access to electricity can help reconcile development, poverty eradication and climate change mitigation and adaptation. For two decades, GSEP has taken concrete actions towards increasing access to clean and reliable electricity across the world, demonstrating the viability of a bottom-up approach to sustainable energy development and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Our installed renewable energy projects have already helped avoid around 10,000 tonnes per year of CO2 emissions. Each of the above commitments will invest in the sustainable future of communities in need, supporting in this way climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## Commitment to Provide 50,000 solar lanterns

Remote communities without access to a reliable and affordable source of energy are the most prone to poverty and low-quality living conditions. Extending the grid to these communities may sometimes not be an option and as a result, off-grid solutions are the most efficient way to give access to clean energy. Together with the Global BrightLight Foundation, GSEP is pledging to provide 50,000 solar lanterns to off-grid households in developing countries. Priced comparatively to similar kerosene lanterns, the solar lanterns will be provided to the communities through a pay as you go program to ensure that the beneficiaries take ownership and responsibility for the lanterns and their care.

GSEP will consider communities in Africa, Latin America, China and India for the deployment of the solar lanterns. Strong local partners are essential for the operation and maintenance of this program and GSEP will actively seek their assistance. Replacing kerosene, candles or – in some cases – animal waste with clean solar lanterns will improve indoor air quality, facilitate greater access to education, enhance personal safety and enrich the quality of life of these communities. The simple provision of solar light will generate opportunities (even economic ones) that these people currently lack.

## Members:





## **Commitment to Expand Current Capacity-Building Workshop Program**

Education is the key to unlocking the economic potential in communities. A well-trained workforce, knowledgeable in the skills needed to develop and maintain a reliable, clean energy system is essential in building vibrant, healthy communities and providing solutions to climate change. GSEP represents an international pool of expertise from different backgrounds and experiences in the electricity industry. GSEP's mission, in part, is to share its members' business know-how and expertise to build local capacities, including local utilities' ability to deliver relevant and value-adding projects, and accelerate sustainable energy development.

With its 20 years of experience in implementing over 50 workshops, GSEP has developed capacity-building toolkits that it will use to expand its current program to reach out to more developing countries. These toolkits will be used as the core knowledge base for additional interactive dialogues and workshops that will be developed in collaboration with key local and regional partners in targeted countries. One of the first available toolkits will focus on best practices for developing successful public-private partnerships (PPP). Targeted to begin in 2013, this program will feature learning modules based on the recommendations issued in the two reports prepared jointly by UN-Energy and GSEP on how to strengthen PPP. The workshops will show how strong PPP can be sound business models for sustainable-energy projects needed in countless other places around the globe where energy needs are minimally met.

## **Commitment to Fund the development of Electrification Roadmaps for Southern Africa**

The inevitable rise in energy demand that will come with continued economic growth will put pressure on countries to pursue the electrification of their territories. GSEP has pledged to help fund the Electrification Roadmap for Southern Africa that will not only help these countries plan and identify how to connect their populations to the grid, but will also help them implement these connections with concrete project development roll outs. The aim is to provide access for 500 million people by 2025 and replicate these maps for implementation in other regions of the world.

## **Challenges that lie ahead**

It is essential to help build a common understanding of the electricity sector's challenges and perspectives to ensure that enabling environments are set to:

- achieve a positive impact in sustainable energy development and
- develop climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies for the electricity sector worldwide.

The Chairmen of GSEP strongly assert that the use of a wide mix of generation of electricity is essential to meet the need for sustainable development and lower carbon emissions everywhere. They identified the following 3 main challenges that the international power sector will face in the next ten years that must be overcome to accelerate the building of a low-carbon economy with universal access to electricity:

- 1) Decarbonization of power generation by combining a well-balanced generation mix including renewables and low-carbon generation such as large hydro, advanced coal technologies and nuclear as base load with greater energy efficiency;
- 2) Optimization and adaptation of transmission, distribution and interconnection systems. The integration of more renewable energy into the grid (with the high intermittence of its sources), as well as the need for more load demand management, better stabilization devices for the grids, and increased energy efficiency, puts an immediate high pressure on the electricity industry to invest in transmission and distribution networks in preparation for such new challenges;
- 3) Guarantee of stakeholder affordability of electric energy supply. The first two challenges will require large-scale investments in the power sector. Building awareness of the financial costs involved in the electricity sector reform is vital. Governments must define stable, coherent and long-term oriented energy policies and regulatory framework to attract public and private investments and to ensure proper unbiased market conditions and a level playing field among different technologies to encourage a well-balanced energy mix.

Strong synergies can result when public, private and civil society actors commit to working together for one common goal. Through its activities, GSEP will continue to show its strong support for the UN SE4ALL initiative, aspiring to take on an increasing role in facilitating energy access by 2030 with other organizations ready to join the call.