



SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FOR ALL

ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ENERGY ACCESS

Sustainable energy powers opportunity.

Yet 1.3 billion people—one in five globally—lack electricity to light their homes or conduct business. Twice that number—nearly 40% of the world's population—rely on wood, coal, charcoal, or animal waste to cook their food—breathing in toxic smoke that causes lung disease and kills nearly two million people a year, most of them women and children.

Electricity enables children to study after dark. It enables water to be pumped for crops, and foods and medicines to be refrigerated. Modern fuels for cooking and heating relieve women from the time-consuming drudgery and danger of traveling long distances to gather wood.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is calling on businesses, governments and civil society to achieve Sustainable Energy for All.

Ensuring universal access to modern energy services by 2030 is an essential part of the Secretary-General's vision.

At the heart of his vision are three complementary objectives: **achieving universal access to modern energy services**; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Realizing these three objectives will drive economic growth, improve social equity, and protect our environment. Together, they will power the world toward a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future.



**800,000
LIVES SAVED**

Replacing outdated cookstoves and open fires with modern energy services would save the lives of 800,000 children who die each year as a result of exposure to indoor smoke.¹



**LESS THAN
\$50 BILLION
FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS**

Universal access to modern energy services can be achieved for less than \$50 billion per year.²

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Without access to modern energy, it is not possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the eight-point global development agenda adopted by the United Nations in 2000—whether reducing poverty, improving women's and children's health, or broadening the reach of education. Energy facilitates social and economic development, offering opportunity for improved lives and economic progress.

ACCESS TO ENERGY DRIVES GROWTH

Energy can be used to support businesses and achieve greater prosperity. A farmer who irrigates his fields can double the amount grown, feed his family, and earn a living. A sewing machine and a light to work from at night can enable a woman to generate extra income for her family. Greater prosperity means more disposable income and new markets for consumer goods.

¹ World Health Organization, *Fuel for Life: Household Energy and Health*, 2006

² International Energy Agency, *Energy for All: Financing access for the poor*, 2011

“Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive.”

– UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

Private-sector investment is key to building and serving those markets. Through innovation in energy products and investment in deployment, businesses can create jobs and supply millions of people with the tools they need to make a better life. Policymakers can do their part to remove legal and regulatory barriers that stand in the way of business innovation and investments. Civil society groups can encourage governments to make more sustainable choices and provide community-based models of energy innovation.

COMMITMENTS THAT BENEFIT ALL

The United Nations is ideally suited to convene key stakeholders at both the global and national level to achieve the vision of Sustainable Energy for All. Governments, businesses, and civil society can all make tangible commitments toward renewable energy. Commitments might include:

- **Establishing collaborative public-private partnerships** that set specific renewable energy targets with coordinated efforts to achieve them.
- **Developing communities of practice** to foster peer learning, capacity building, and expert assistance across governments, companies, NGOs, and financial institutions.
- **Identifying creative solutions** to reduce barriers in financing and regulatory frameworks.
- **Creating business incentives for innovation** in renewable energy in partnership with government innovation programs.
- **Demonstrating public sector leadership** by using renewable energy in facilities and procurements.
- **Developing new financing partnerships** to de-risk private investment in developing countries.
- **Adopting government policies** to promote investment, manage risk, and reduce impediments to adopting renewable energy.
- **Implementing and/or scaling up** existing renewable projects.

Providing universal access to modern energy is achievable. China has provided hundreds of millions of people in rural areas with electricity and is expected to achieve universal coverage by 2015. Vietnam has increased the proportion of its population with electricity from less than 5% to 98% in the last 35 years. Brazil’s “Light for All” program extends electricity to marginal and rural areas.

The challenge of providing energy access to everyone is significant but achievable. The opportunities are greater still: **Economic growth. New markets. Sustainable and equitable development. A cleaner planet.** These are within the world’s reach by 2030. Those who act now to improve energy access are creating the future we want.



MORE THAN

95%

of the people without access to modern energy services are either in sub-Saharan Africa or developing Asia, and 84% are in rural areas.³



**\$34 BILLION
IN FAMILY SAVINGS**

**\$105 BILLION
IN ECONOMIC RETURN**

If half of the global households still using traditional fuels and stoves switched to cleaner cooking sources, over a ten year period, families would save \$34 billion per year and generate an economic return of \$105 billion per year.⁴

³ International Energy Agency, *Energy for All: Financing access for the poor*, 2011

⁴ World Health Organization, *Fuel for Life: Household Energy and Health*, 2006

**SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY IS**

POWERING *futures.*