



**WWF-UK**  
*Registered office*  
Panda House, Weyside Park  
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR

Tel: +44 (0)1483 426444  
Fax: +44 (0)1483 426409  
info@wwf.org.uk  
wwf.org.uk

## Rio +20: Energy access for all

---

20 March 2012

---

### Summary

- A commitment is needed from governments and the private sector to major investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and low-carbon industry, recognising that combating climate change is not a barrier to economic and social development.
- Energy access policy needs to address the environmental and social as well as the economic dimensions of sustainable development.
- Rio +20 needs to set targets for energy access and for clean, affordable and renewable energy by 2030. The targets should be underpinned by effective and predictable institutional frameworks which can support appropriate investment.
- Subsidies for fossil fuel should be redeployed to energy access programmes.

### The opportunity at Rio:

The UN Secretary General's initiative 'Sustainable Energy for All' sets three goals for 2030:

- universal access to modern energy services;
- doubling of the rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and
- doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

WWF supports the recommendation made by the Global Sustainability Panel that:

'Governments should work in concert with appropriate stakeholders to ensure universal access to affordable sustainable energy by 2030, as well as seek to double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Governments and international organizations should promote energy-saving technologies and renewable energy through the incentivization of research and development and investment in them.'



President: His Royal Highness,  
The Prince of Wales KG, KT, GCB, OM  
Chair: Ed Smith  
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

WWF-UK a charity registered in England and Wales number 1081247 and in  
Scotland number SC039593, a company limited by guarantee registered in  
England number 4016725. VAT number 733 761821  
100% recycled paper

To achieve these targets, Parties should adopt strong, effective and predictable institutional and regulatory frameworks to create the enabling investment environment. This also includes defining adequate policy tools, specific sector targets, and assigning responsibilities to governmental institutions. Parties should embed adequate monitoring and reporting of implementation through a transparent process, by developing clear reporting guidelines on the achievement of energy access targets and including these in an open and transparent reporting initiative.

Developed countries need to support the achievement of targets by committing to and providing adequate finances additional to ODA. This can notably be achieved through a green investment vehicle to catalyse private funding in a favourable and stable regulatory structure, as well as by mobilising new and innovative sources of finance. Funding should also be found by redeploying money currently used for fossil fuel subsidies.

Developed countries should commit to supporting technology cooperation, notably through the technology network agreed at UNFCCC Cop-16 in Cancún for the dissemination of clean energy solutions. Furthermore, developed countries should focus their engagement on supporting technical capacity building on national level for private sector, government institutions and civil society.

In parallel, developing countries should also set official short- and long-term national targets for achieving 100% energy access by 2030 through the use of safe, clean and affordable renewable energies. These targets need to be underpinned by realistic implementation frameworks and plans developed through inclusive multi-stakeholder processes.

## **WWF Energy Principles**

Access to clean energy is key to sustainable development; for human livelihood, education, economic opportunity, gender equality, and health. The revolution in energy access is essential for poverty eradication but it is equally important that it does not contribute to additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; avoids dependence on volatile energy prices and expensive fossil fuels; avoids negative externalities and deepening negative social and environmental 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, energy access goals are best achieved through the use of renewable energy and related technologies.

## **Background**

1.3 billion people have no or erratic access to electricity; 2.7 billion people, mostly in 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' which already include the investment of almost \$US 10 billion annually to combat energy poverty, the number of people relying on traditional biomass is expected to rise from 2.7 billion today to 2.8 billion in 2030. The use of biomass and coal for cooking has severe consequences. 1.5 million people die each year from indoor pollution caused by inefficient use and smoke from these resources by open fires.

<b>Contact</b>	Neva Frecheville and Penny Evans
<b>Email/Tel</b>	<a href="mailto:Nfrecheville@wwf.org.uk">Nfrecheville@wwf.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:pevans@wwf.org.uk">pevans@wwf.org.uk</a>
<b>Date</b>	March 2012