



SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY FOR ALL

# A COMMITMENT TO A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

Sustainable energy—energy that is accessible, cleaner and more efficient—powers opportunity. It grows economies. Lights up homes, schools and hospitals. Empowers women and local communities. And paves a path out of poverty to greater prosperity for all.

The world currently invests more than \$1 trillion per year in energy, much of it going toward the energy systems of the past instead of building the clean energy economies of the future. Investing in sustainable energy is a smart strategy for growing markets, improving competitiveness, and providing greater equity and opportunity. Indeed, the transition to sustainable energy may well be the biggest business opportunity of the 21st century.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is calling on governments, businesses, and civil society to make specific commitments that help achieve Sustainable Energy for All by 2030. The Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative has three complementary objectives:



ENSURING  
*universal access*  
TO MODERN ENERGY  
SERVICES.



DOUBLING THE GLOBAL  
RATE OF IMPROVEMENT IN  
*energy efficiency.*



DOUBLING THE SHARE OF  
*renewable energy*  
IN THE GLOBAL  
ENERGY MIX.

## MAKING A COMMITMENT

The United Nations is ideally suited to bring together the key stakeholders—governments, businesses, and civil society—that can make the significant commitments needed to build a sustainable energy future for all.

Commitments are promises to take action, alone or in partnership, such as:

- Launching new projects or partnerships;
- Scaling up or accelerating existing activities;
- Adding additional partners to existing projects; or
- Renewing commitments made recently, if activities to realize these commitment are still ongoing.

The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All initiative is identifying high-impact opportunities and providing industry-specific guidance to help in the development and structuring of commitments.

Commitments can take many forms. For example:

- **Companies** can make their operations and supply chains more energy-efficient, develop new business models for energy access, and form public-private partnerships to support the enabling environment for sustainable energy products and services and help take them to scale.
- **Investors** can provide seed money for clean technologies and invest in both on- and off-grid solutions and help enable successful models to be taken to scale.
- **Governments and international institutions** can develop national energy plans and targets, provide financial support, and remove counterproductive tariffs and subsidies.
- **Industry, government, and academia** can contribute new research.
- **Civil society groups** can train people, conduct advocacy, offer technical expertise, and encourage transparency.



**MORE THAN  
\$1 TRILLION  
ANNUAL INVESTMENT**

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## COMMITMENTS THAT CATALYZE ACTION AND BENEFIT ALL

Commitments will catalyze actions that provide significant benefits for all, including strengthened economic growth, expanded social equity, and a cleaner environment.

- **Sustainable energy generates economic growth**, creating and expanding markets for goods and services for companies around the globe.
- **One-fifth of humanity currently lacks access to electricity. Providing modern energy services to all people will enable** hundreds of millions of children to study at night. Businesses, schools, and health clinics will have reliable power. Women will no longer have to spend their days gathering firewood.
- **With the right conditions, sustainable energy investments pay for themselves.** Addressing legal and regulatory barriers can create opportunities for reliable returns and lower risk factors for private investment.
- **Renewable energy and improved energy efficiency helps reduce the risks of climate change.**

The benefits are clear—improved health and productivity, stable or reduced energy costs, and a cleaner environment.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the Sustainable Energy for All website ([sustainableenergyforall.org](https://sustainableenergyforall.org)) to find information on the Secretary-General's vision for Sustainable Energy for All, stakeholder-specific information on the value of participating, and step-by-step instructions for submitting a commitment.

To learn more about how to take action toward Sustainable Energy for All, please contact:

**Sujeesh Krishnan** or **Aimée Christensen**, Special Advisors to the Secretary-General's High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, at [skrishnan@sustainableenergyforall.org](mailto:skrishnan@sustainableenergyforall.org) or [achristensen@sustainableenergyforall.org](mailto:achristensen@sustainableenergyforall.org).

**SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY IS  
POWERING progress.**