



GFSE Newsletter

Dear Friends of GFSE,

We are pleased to send you our summer edition of the GFSE newsletter, containing updates on activities of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy, important events and news from other stakeholders working towards a sustainable energy future for all.

Enjoy reading!
The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy



Vienna Energy Forum 2021

The Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) gathering leaders from governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector, to move forward the development of inclusive and sustainable solutions across the globe will take place on **5 - 7 July 2021**. The VEF 2021 is designed to facilitate a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainable energy for inclusive development and productive capacities. Guided by the motto "Where Action Meets Ambition" and designed as the first virtual VEF, the 2021 edition it included a Youth Day on the 5th of July 2021, followed by the VEF on the 6th and 7th of July 2021.

[Please register here](#)



GFSE Side event at the Vienna Energy Forum: Green Skills for the Youth

Enhancing skills development and creating work opportunities for youth in the renewables sector is essential to achieve decarbonisation and mitigate climate change. Pursuing initiatives to develop business and technical skills and create jobs targeting the youth more vigorously is imperative, with increased collaboration between the private sector and educational institutions to improve the quality and accessibility of training.

The GFSE event in the framework of the Vienna Energy Forum 2021 will take place on **5th July between 15:30 and 16:30 (CET Vienna)** in parallel with the Youth Day and will bring together Austrian company representatives from the renewables industry to discuss best practices, challenges and bottlenecks, and exchange experiences on green skills, which are needed to scale up solar energy and other renewables.

All participants to the Vienna Energy Forum are kindly invited to attend. For registration to the Vienna Energy Forum please see above. There is no separate registration for this GFSE side event.

The Renewables 2021 Global Status Report (GSR) provides an overview of the renewable energy markets, investments and policies around the world. This year's edition includes a feature chapter on the Business Demand for Renewables. The report highlights the need for governments to outline targets for renewables given that, for the first time, the number of countries with renewable energy support policies did not increase from the previous year and investments in fossil fuels outlined in COVID-19 recovery packages worldwide were six times greater than the level of investments allocated to renewable energy. Thus, the GSR calls for RES Targets backed up by policies that support the uptake of renewables by incentivising and/or mandating their use. Governments also need to actively phase out the use of fossil fuels and fossil fuel subsidies. The GSR also highlights the fact that renewables in the heating and cooling sector have only made slow progress. Heating and cooling is a very promising market for renewables but making progress requires removing a number of obstacles related to the financing of projects, which are typically small, and accelerating the phase out of fossil fuels.

We need to make progress in renewables a key performance indicator in all economic activities, and use the renewable energy share to monitor advancement.

The key messages for decision makers can be found [here](#).

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

UN High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021

The High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021 represents the first inclusive global gathering on energy under the auspices of the General Assembly since the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi in 1981. The preparatory process includes five thematic working groups coming together to discuss recommendations that can be put forward to the general assembly. Five working groups have been making progress on diverse topics as follows:

- Energy access
- Energy transition
- Enabling SDGs through inclusive, just transitions
- Innovation, technology and data
- Finance and investment

The executive summaries of the 5 Theme Reports can be accessed online [here](#)

Technical Working Group 3: **Enabling SDGs through Inclusive, Just Energy Transitions** has come up with seven recommendations on the implementation of an equitable and inclusive energy transition, through effective global, national and local partnerships as follows:

- Every country and region should integrate achievement of the SDGs as a guiding framework into the planning and implementation of their own transition pathways towards clean and sustainable energy
- Implement a sustainable energy transition strategy with social equity and inclusiveness at its centre to enable the SDGs.
- Integrate access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy, including access to electricity and clean cooking, as the central pillar of inclusive, just, energy-transition strategies.
- Accelerate the integration of gender equity into energy transition pathways
- Enable transformational change by promoting systemic approaches in the energy transition to achieving the SDGs and the climate goals, while ensuring energy security.

- Track progress and integrate an Energy for SDG Impact Framework into energy transition strategies.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships to leverage the transformational potential of energy for enabling the SDGs

GFSE Policy Brief #12: Youth and the Energy Transition

A new GFSE Policy Brief is being developed focusing on the role of youth and the energy transition.

The young generation has lots of potential to contribute to the energy transition in many ways, for instance through engagement in decision-making processes at local and international level and as skilled workforce supporting the development of renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean mobility value chains.

Key messages from the policy brief are as follows:

Green skills

- Developing and emerging economies must strengthen their capacities to develop green skills in the clean energy and climate mitigation and adaptation areas.
- Suitable policies prompting cooperation between companies, government and educational institutions are necessary to ensure that training programmes respond to real market needs
- Models such as dual training, allowing apprentices to receive hands-on training in companies while at the same time attending lectures in vocational schools, are very effective in addressing real-market needs
- Digital skills will become more and more relevant to implement new business models in the clean energy and mobility sectors (e.g. PAYGO, shared mobility, Renewable energy communities, cybersecurity). A strong focus should be put in providing digital skills to children and youth. At the same time, digital tools will play a very important role in training and education in the future.

Youth engagement

- Youth engagement can help governments achieve improved results on public service delivery, public financial management, governance, social inclusion and empowerment
- Young people can help implementing people-centered energy solutions based on the needs of the people and communities they serve such as renewable energy communities and jointly acting consumers. At the same time, the youth can engage in supporting broad social mobilisation towards climate and environmental action.
- Young people can apply their innovation power to advance new technological solutions and business models to facilitate the uptake of renewables, energy efficiency and clean mobility solutions

Please check out the policy brief [here](#)



IRENA Renewable Energy Policies for Cities: Experiences in China, Uganda and Costa Rica

This report presents case studies of renewables policies in cities in three countries: China, Uganda and Costa Rica. Each case study outlines the national-level policies framing renewable energy deployment at the local level. Cities face significant challenges in local deployment of renewables and the report outlines best-practice examples and challenges. Among others, the report illustrates the importance of strengthening local governance and improving access of cities to affordable finance. City-level action must also be supported by national policies enabling cities access to sufficient resources and knowledge and enabling coordination between city administrations and regional/national authorities through sound governance systems. Cities need

to improve their creditworthiness and their capacity to attract financial resources, including from the private sector, to be able to implement pandemic-resilient and climate-resilient infrastructure. For this purpose, technical assistance to help cities improve their capital investment planning in renewable energy is essential.

In addition, it highlights the importance of electrification strategies can support the scaling up of renewable energy. Cities, towns and districts can be important living labs to demonstrate the feasibility of policies supporting electrification nationwide.

[The report can be downloaded here](#)

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