

FRANCE & ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

OBJECTIVES FOR 2030

Today more than 1.3 billion people in the world are without access to electricity, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia.

In 2011 the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL) designed to ensure by 2030:

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

In 2009, €6.9 billion were invested globally to extend the access to modern energy services, yet a total of €36.6 billion is required annually to ensure universal energy access by 2030.



Energy is central to sustainable development in its three pillars (economic, social and environmental). It plays a key role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the future post-2015 agenda.

Development assistance in the energy sector is therefore crucial for combating the current situation of energy poverty which hinders development in the poorest countries.



French development assistance priorities in the energy sector

■ French development assistance in the energy sector is implemented within the framework of global strategies to combat poverty, promote green and equitable growth and protect global public goods.

■ France's action today revolves around four major objectives:

- giving priority to renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- improving energy access in rural and peri-urban areas;
- securing and strengthening energy systems;
- building energy policy and stakeholder capacity.

France supports an integrated and balanced approach to the three objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

Action geared to combat climate change

■ French development assistance is closely linked to France's action to combat climate change. The French agency for development (AFD) has devoted €7.4 billion to the energy sector since 2007, of which €5.8 billion was assigned to conduct renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

New adequate resources

■ As part of its new strategy, the AFD has committed €2 billion to renewable energy and energy efficiency over the three-year period (2013-2016). The total investment in the energy sector will be maintained at around €2 billion annually.

■ The French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) has made sustainable energy in Africa a priority for 2013-2014. It will subsidize the development of innovative projects, including energy access projects, with co-financing worth €5 million.

New actors need to be mobilized

■ In order to achieve the current objectives, including the SE4ALL initiative, additional funding must be mobilized. Therefore, creating the conditions for involving the private sector alongside traditional aid is essential today, by establishing new financing mechanisms with a strong leverage effect and by pursuing proactive reform and policy.

Clearly defined lines of action

Strengthening regional energy integration in West Africa

■ Strengthening regional energy integration in West Africa is a major policy focus of French cooperation programmes. Several transmission line and electric interconnection projects scheduled within the framework of the West African Power Pool (WAPP), as well as various renewable energy infrastructure projects have been financed by the AFD in recent years (more than €200 million were committed to fund the electric interconnection between Ghana and Burkina Faso).

■ The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided significant support for the development of energy access policy by financing a West African “White Paper for a regional policy geared towards increasing access to energy services” and initiating the MEPRED Project for the promotion of energy access in national programmes and strategies. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also developing energy efficiency programmes with the support of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME).



DEVELOPING GREEN ENERGY IN WEST AFRICA

As the main donor in the energy sector in Africa, the AFD has for several years provided significant support to promote the use of geothermal energy. By funding more than €230 million, France has developed the geothermal potential of the Olkaria site in Kenya, which is one of the most important sites in Africa. Other geothermal projects are currently being studied in Rwanda and in Uganda. French cooperation agencies are also working on new mechanisms for financing renewable energy and energy efficiency in partnership with commercial banks and via specific appropriation lines.

Enhanced Action on European level

Innovative co-financing instruments

■ The European Union (EU) is today one of the leading actors in energy sector development assistance. It both finances local energy initiatives and develops innovative co-financing instruments combining loans and grants that allow for significant leverage effect. An example of such an instrument is the ACP-EU Energy Facility that targets projects for access to sustainable energy in rural and peri-urban areas in sub-Saharan African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Since the creation of the Energy Facility in 2006, its total commitment has amounted to €420 million. The Energy Facility has not only helped finance 140 projects thereby ensuring energy access of some 15 million people, but also developed a European platform for donor-funded investments in improved energy access.

■ In June 2012, the EU announced a contribution of €465 million under the SE4ALL Initiative earmarked exclusively for financing energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. **With a participation of about 19.55% to the European Development Fund (EDF), France is today the second largest contributor to the EDF.**

Concerted political action

■ France is participating in the European Union Energy Initiative (EUEI) for poverty reduction that was launched at the 2002 Earth Summit in Johannesburg to promote improved integration of energy into poverty reduction strategies.

■ France is also an active member of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) launched in Lisbon in December 2007 and helps to implement its Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) through the AFD.

✎ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr

French agency for development (AFD)

www.afd.fr

French Global Environment Facility

www.ffem.fr

French Environment and Energy Management Agency

www.ademe.fr

European Union

www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/energy/index_en.htm

Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL)

www.sustainableenergyforall.org

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Contacts: Delphine Clerc-Toure – delphine.clerc-toure@diplomatie.gouv.fr

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