

Calling for Stronger Public-Private partnerships to Increase Climate Change Mitigation and Scale up Actions towards Sustainable Energy for All

About the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership

The Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership, is a non-profit international organization, composed of the world's leading electricity companies, whose mission is to play an active role in global electricity issues within the international framework and to promote sustainable energy development through electricity sector projects and human capacity building activities in developing and emerging nations worldwide.

The organization, in partnership with UN agencies, key international organizations and local partners, contributes to enhancing access to energy for some of the 1.4 billion people around the world still without access to this essential resource.

For more information:

General Secretariat
505 de Maisonneuve Blvd
W., Lobby
Montreal, QC H3A 3C2
CANADA
T:+1-514-392-8876
F:+1-514-392-8900

www.globalelectricity.org

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The Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership brings together the leading electric utilities in the world and as such it is uniquely positioned to share its members expertise, experience and know-how with its counterparts in developing and emerging countries. As an initiator of change, and in line with the United Nations' 2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, the Partnership calls on all public and private partners to scale up sustainable energy access, recognizing the positive impacts it can have on climate change mitigation and adaptation and on economic development.

Looking towards Rio+20 and its 20th year anniversary, the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership wishes to highlight its accomplishments and that of its partners, both private and public, in the fight against climate change. The Partnership's capital projects and human capacity building workshops in developing countries showcase how public-private partnerships can generate sustainable clean electricity projects with sound financial schemes and business models that can be replicated in other areas lacking access to electricity. While working with its partners in these projects, the Partnership has recognized the urgent need for optimizing collaboration in a global, coordinated and integrated manner in order to address universal access to energy services and sustainable energy development.

Providing Sustainable Energy for All is essential. The stakes are high; and time is of the essence. The Partnership is ready and willing to pool its resources with that of the public sector and other major players in order to share its knowledge and best practices with developing countries in an effort to pursue solutions to climate change through global action, moving closer to the targets of sustainable energy for all. The Partnership is confident that together we can unlock action at the scale needed to achieve this goal.

Concerning climate change, the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership believes that:

1. Strong public-private partnerships are essential to support the global deployment of low and zero-emitting electricity technologies at country, regional and global levels. The Partnership members are committed to closely cooperate together with all public, private and civil society partners for the advancement of sustainable energy development, sharing their expertise and experience .
2. As a voice of the international electricity sector, the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership is leading by example the fight against climate change, through concrete actions and a hands-on approach. Together with UN agencies, key international organizations and local partners, the Partnership's members are demonstrating that climate change mitigation can be addressed through clean and sustainable energy projects that not only benefit the environment, but also have positive economic and social impacts on the beneficiary population and their neighbours.

The Partnership Members are:



(Partner)

3. Electricity remains one of the best solutions to drive forward the momentum for climate change mitigation and social and economic development:
 - a. Partnership members provide low-carbon electricity generation mixes, supplying affordable, reliable and clean power to our customers while lowering greenhouse gas emissions. An optimal balance of renewables, advanced coal, large hydro, natural gas, nuclear, combined with increased energy efficiency can ensure energy security, job creation and economic growth.
 - b. Through the Smart Use of Electricity, the Partnership's member utilities are taking a leadership role demonstrating that the use of low-carbon electricity, combined with a wider and more efficient use of electricity on the demand side leads to increased primary energy savings and lower CO2 emissions as well as to robust energy security and a better quality of life .

ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The private sector has a vital role in the fight against climate change. The majority of the solutions can be ensured in both their implementation and delivery by close cooperation between the public and the private sector. Not only do public-private partnerships provide the necessary technologies and knowledge, but they can also be one of the main financial channels needed in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

To this end, the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership, UN-Energy and other partners launched in the summer of 2010 a global initiative on "Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships". As main component of the initiative, the Partnership conducted a survey of best practices by partnership promoters, practitioners and beneficiaries. Nine recommendations were drawn, based on the perspectives and experience of the survey respondents, outlining what was identified as the best practices for successful public-private partnerships in the deployment of low- and zero-emitting electricity technologies:

- Recommendation 1: Establish a formal national energy development plan with a strong legislative framework and a clearly defined public-private partnership strategy.
- Recommendation 2: Provide assured cost recovery and profit potential for investors by creating national energy plans backed by legislation and regulation that establish a commitment to the promotion of low-carbon technologies.

- Recommendation 3: Provide stable, sufficient funding for research, development, demonstration and deployment (RDD&D) of a wide range of emerging clean electricity technologies.
- Recommendation 4: Public-private partnerships can raise the standard of living for recipients and support communities in their economic and social development through improved access to electricity.
- Recommendation 5: Optimize the private sector's ability to bring many financing alternatives for electricity projects and to design, construct, operate and maintain them.
- Recommendation 6: Set electricity development goals and timetables for long-term technology deployment under national energy plans.
- Recommendation 7: Sustain strong partnerships with effective communication, well-defined roles and responsibilities, and continuous commitment.
- Recommendation 8: Secure income by using power purchase agreements (PPAs) with the private sector for greatest certainty regarding long-term investments.
- Recommendation 9: Implement these recommendations by increasing the alignment of public, private and civil society sector practitioner efforts with willing countries.

This year the initiative continues, and a second edition of the report, outlining recommendations on the best practices for successful public-private partnerships, based on replies to a global survey completed by private and public sector actors, as well as development banks and agencies, will be issued in June 2012. To learn more about this initiative and access last year's report, please visit www.globalelectricity.org/ppp.

Global solutions to climate change need to take into consideration concerns about energy supply security and reliability, as well as the costs implied. Strengthening public-private partnerships should be a priority for all. Not only can they help ensure the financing needed for cleaner energy initiatives, but also can accelerate the deployment of climate change mitigating technologies.

The Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership is a unique organization that, bringing together the leading electric utilities in the world, is dedicated to its role as catalyst for sustainable energy development in the world.