



2025 Annual Report



INDEX



Foreword	3
About REN21	5
Our Mission	6
2025 at a Glance	7
Network Overview	9
Our Impact	11
Entering the New Energy Era	12
Governance	15
REN21 Secretariat	18
Funding	19
Financial Accounts 2024	20

Foreword

Message from
Ramón Méndez Galain,
President, REN21

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The vision of a Renewable-Based Economy (RBE), pioneered by REN21, now provides a shared lens for understanding how renewables must intersect with policy, industry, and economic priorities.

The past year has brought unprecedented challenges to societies and energy systems worldwide. Rising geopolitical tensions, energy insecurity and accelerating climate impacts have reinforced the strategic importance of renewable energy, which is steadily becoming the backbone of resilient economies, stable societies and sustainable development.

In this complex landscape, REN21's network has been a critical enabler of change. By connecting organisations across sectors and regions, identifying systemic gaps, and facilitating coordinated action, the network transforms knowledge, data and dialogue into real-world impact. The vision of a Renewable-Based Economy (RBE), pioneered by REN21, now provides a shared lens for understanding how renewables must intersect with policy, industry and economic priorities.



Message from
Rana Adib,
Executive Director, REN21 Secretariat

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Together with more than 130 member organisations and partners, REN21 worked to shape a new strategy that reflects the realities of the energy transition across regions and sectors.

2025 was a year of collaboration and co-creation. Together with its members and partners, REN21 worked to shape a new strategy that reflects the realities of the energy transition across regions and sectors.

Through this process, the Renewable-Based Economy (RBE) emerged as our guiding framework — providing clarity for collective action. By identifying gaps, aligning priorities, and translating strategy into concrete initiatives, the network advanced renewable energy as a foundation for resilient economies, integrated systems, and equitable development.

This year demonstrated that coordinated action multiplies impact. A renewables-based economy is the lens through which REN21 and its network navigate the transition, helping policy and decision-makers connect, align, and move forward together.



About REN21

REN21 is the global multi-stakeholder network of governments, industry, NGOs, science and academia that enables the necessary changes to build the renewable-based economy for prosperous lives and societies.

Our vision is a world where renewable energy is the foundation for strong, equitable and resilient economies. Renewables are the undeniable choice for people, nature and prosperity.

Founded in 2004, we've built a powerful and diverse network of 130 institutions and a community of more than 4,000 players, from the energy ecosystem and other key sectors. Our inclusive governance structure and collaborative culture enable us to build on the insights and intelligence of our global community to drive the solutions needed for economic prosperity and societal well-being.





Our Mission

Energy is fundamental to the fabric of our societies. Our mission is to achieve a world built on renewable energy by uniting diverse stakeholders and creating the momentum for the necessary rapid, lasting change.

At REN21, we uncover blind spots, break down silos and challenge deep-rooted systems. We use dialogue, debate and data to ensure renewables are at the heart of global policymaking and economic decision-making.

As a trusted platform, we shape the narrative to show that renewable energy is the clear choice for people and nature.

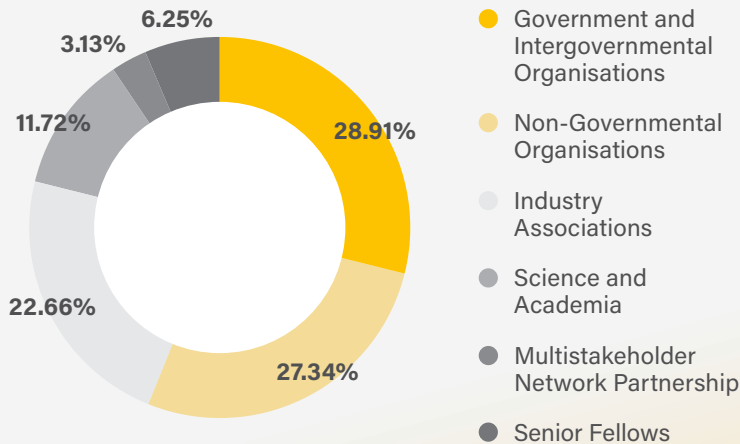


2025 at a Glance

130+ contributing members

10+ new members

Member Distribution per Stakeholder Group



RENEWABLES-BASED ECONOMY –
A new framework building alignment
for the new era

70K+ engaged via digital media

38M reached through media

2000+ convened through
dialogue and exchange





KEY CONVENINGS

» COP30, Belem

» ENERGYNOW SDG7 ACTION FORUM

» 15th IRENA General Assembly, Abu Dhabi

» Global ABC Annual Assembly, Dresden

» Global RENdez-vous: Building Resilient Economies and Societies with Renewables (online)

» IRENA Innovation Week 2025, Abu Dhabi

» London Climate Action Week 2025, United Kingdom

» New York Climate Week, United States

» REN21's Power Many 2025, Paris

» RENdez-vous Africa:
What does RBE mean for Africa?

» Renew our Power, Brasilia

» SEforAll Global Forum, Barbados





2025 RENEWABLES GLOBAL STATUS REPORT

170+ contributors

200,000+ readers worldwide

Network Overview

By the end of the year, REN21 comprised 130 member organisations spanning governments, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, industry associations, science and academia, and senior fellows. Together, these institutions form a global platform that bridges regions, sectors, and policy spaces to accelerate the shift to a renewables-based economy.

The network continued to grow, expanding its reach across Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia. REN21's strength lies not only in its institutional membership but also in its broader community of over 4,000 individuals and organisations that engage in our dialogues, co-author reports, and advance our common vision.

From data sharing and joint campaigns to cross-sector events and strategy consultations, the REN21 network continues to demonstrate that collaboration across ecosystems is possible and key to catalyse systemic change.



Our Impact

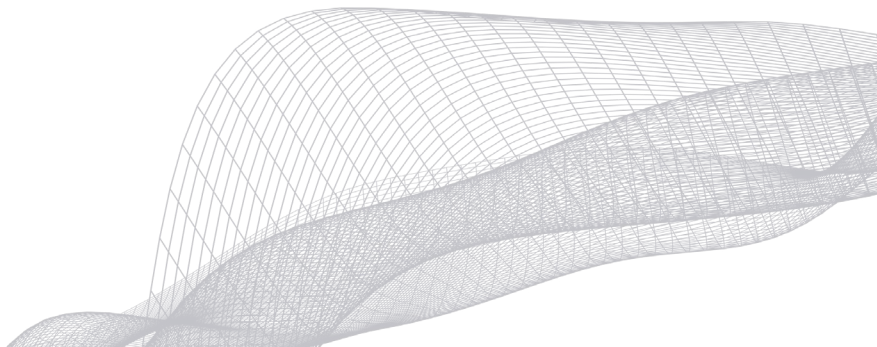
In 2025, the renewable energy story entered a new chapter. After two decades of growing visibility, falling costs and record deployment, **renewables are no longer seen as a niche climate solution**. They are increasingly recognised as central to **energy security, economic development, industrial competitiveness, resilience and adaptation**.

This progress did not happen by chance. For more than 20 years, REN21 has helped make renewables **visible, credible and actionable** through trusted data, policy engagement and multi-stakeholder collaboration. In its first decade, the network helped build the **evidence base** for renewable energy as a viable solution. In its second, REN21 helped **connect renewables to wider systems**, including cities, transport, industry, agriculture, finance and development planning. This work helped prepare the ground for the moment we are now entering.



Yet the transition is still held back by **structural challenges**. Decisions on energy supply, demand sectors, infrastructure, finance and economic planning are still too often made separately. Renewable energy is growing, but not yet at the **pace, scale or level of system-wide coordination needed** to build strong and resilient societies. This is especially visible in developing and emerging economies, including across Africa, where renewables are essential for energy access, resilience, adaptation and long-term economic opportunity, but where **policy, finance and implementation often remain insufficiently aligned**.

In 2025, REN21 built on its long-standing strengths: **evidence, diverse perspectives and the ability to align actors** around shared priorities. The network helped connect regions, sectors and constituencies around a clearer understanding of what must change next. This impact was not only about expanding knowledge or convening dialogue, but about helping prepare actors for a new energy era in which renewables shape economic choices, development pathways and societal resilience.



Entering the New Energy Era

In 2025, REN21 advanced the energy transition through the **renewables-based economy framework**. Developed through the insights and contributions of the diverse players REN21 convenes, the framework translates REN21's **Vision 2030** into a shared direction for action. It reflects a collective commitment to move beyond renewable energy deployment alone and towards **economies and societies designed around renewable energy as their foundation**.

As renewables become central to economic development, resilience, competitiveness and energy security, **the challenge is no longer only to increase capacity. It is to align policies, markets, infrastructure, finance and demand sectors** so that renewable energy can be deployed sustainably, at scale and in ways that strengthen societies. The renewables-based economy framework gives REN21 and its network a **common language for this shift**.

This was one of REN21's main impacts in 2025. By anchoring its activities around renewables-based economy principles, REN21 helped shift the narrative from **renewables as a sectoral solution to renewables as the basis for a new economic and development model**. The framework supported stronger alignment across the network, helped identify priority actions and positioned REN21 as a **catalyst for practical pathways toward systemic change**.

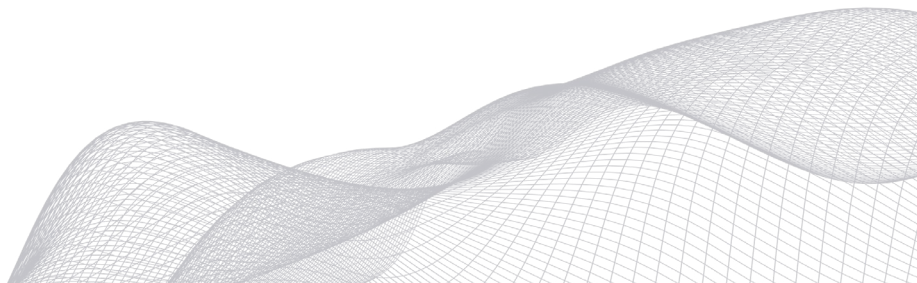
The work is already shaping how renewables are discussed across policy and development spaces: not only as a climate solution, but as a **driver of energy security, industrialisation, resilience, adaptation and economic opportunity**. In doing so, REN21 helped lay the foundation for future action, making its members, partners and wider community **better prepared for the new energy era already taking shape**.

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR SUCCESS STORIES:

Co-Developing Solutions through Change Programmes

Topics that need priority attention will allow to accelerate and scale renewables and address structural barriers. REN21's Change Programmes were a key mechanism for advancing two key topics under the Renewable-Based Economy (RBE) framework: Demand-led Energy Planning in an RBE and RBE: The Developing Economies Perspective. Co-developed by members and partners, they brought together diverse stakeholders to address shared challenges, strengthen demand-led energy planning, and explore how renewable energy can support broader economic, social, and development objectives.

Through collaborative workshops, dialogues, policy engagement, and knowledge products, the programmes generated new evidence, fostered peer learning, and strengthened coordination across sectors and regions. By connecting expertise, testing ideas, and sharing lessons, they helped translate REN21's strategy into practical action and collective impact.



Narrative Influence and Policy Alignment

REN21 strengthened **narrative alignment** around renewables as a **driver of economic resilience, social progress and system-wide transformation**. This helped build **greater coherence across public and policy discourse**, supporting a clearer understanding of how renewables connect to wider development priorities and setting the foundations for the **renewables-based economy narrative**.

Rather than advancing isolated messages, the network helped **align diverse actors around distinct renewable energy nexus topics**, including economic development, resilience, adaptation and demand-sector transformation. These narratives were disseminated across **governments, regional organisations, civil society and the wider REN21 network** through co-created briefs, workshops and strategic communications, including early work on the **renewables-based economy brief**.



Sectoral Integration

REN21 advanced **sectoral integration** to show how renewables can deliver **wider economic, social, and energy system benefits** when embedded in transport, industry, buildings, and agriculture planning. This helped **connect previously separate agendas** and demonstrate practical pathways for reducing emissions, strengthening energy security, and supporting more resilient demand sectors.

REN21's work with **SLOCAT** and the **UN Sustainable Transport Decade workshop in Geneva** showed how integrated renewable energy planning can support cleaner mobility and energy security. A workshop on **Logistics in the Energy Transition** with partners such as the **Kühne Foundation** further illustrated how renewable integration can extend across industrial supply chains and **how little the sectors currently collaborate**.



Regional Collaboration and Leadership

Member organisations from Africa, Asia and Latin America contributed to dialogues, change labs and energy diplomacy. Officially launching the **Renewable Energy Champions (RECI)**, we brought senior officials – former energy ministers from Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Ethiopia – and institutional partners together to **co-develop solutions tailored to regional contexts**. Members such as RES4Africa, Power Shift Africa, Fundacion Bariloche, WRI, and TERI played key roles in **shaping outputs, piloting solutions, and feeding insights into the network's global guidance**.

New Partnerships for Collective Action

Ten new member organisations joined in 2025: Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), Future Energy Storage and System Integration Alliance (FESSIA), Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Republic of Kenya, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), UN Science Policy Business Forum on the Environment (UNSPBF), **James Fletcher**, CARICOM Climate Envoy and Saint Lucia's former Minister for Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology; and **Rosilena Lindo**, Senior Energy Advisor and Panama's Former National Energy Secretary; strengthening regional and sectoral coverage.

Combined with **two new MoUs** with the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) and the Chilean Renewable Energy Agency (ACERA),

this expansion facilitated alignment on priority topics across the network, reinforcing the **Power of Many** and enabling **coordinated impact across multiple countries and sectors**.



Evidence-Building and Operational Impact

Insights generated through change programmes and network activities strengthened REN21's **knowledge base and tools**. This includes a **revamped policy database, new indicators to measure how renewables are reshaping economies**, and thematic reports capturing the **socio-economic and industrial benefits of renewable energy**. This work provides tangible proof points for stakeholders, demonstrating how strategic co-development and coordinated action translate into **measurable system-wide impact**.

Systemic change is achievable through the network's **collective intelligence**. When this is translated into action, strengthened alignment across sectors, regions, and disciplines, it is possible to produce measurable outcomes that **advance the renewable-based economy globally**.

Governance

REN21's governance ensures transparency, accountability, and shared leadership. The Secretariat is guided by a General Assembly comprised of all members, supported by the REN21 Bureau and Steering Committee, which provided strategic oversight and direction throughout 2025. Together, these three interconnected bodies create a democratic structure where member voices shape decisions, with broad institutional representation and direct input into strategic planning.



Bureau 2025

The Bureau is made up of the REN21 President and Executive Director, and seven Steering Committee members. The Bureau is the executive body of REN21 – with members making the major operational decisions that ensure REN21's strategy translates into measurable impact across global renewable energy initiatives. Bureau members serve a two-year cycle, bringing their expertise and influence to accelerate progress, shape policy engagement, and advance collaborative solutions worldwide.

THE BUREAU MEMBERS FOR 2025 – 2027 ARE:

Doug Arent – Senior Fellow: WRI Polsky Center for the Global Energy Transition; REN21

Sonia Dunlop – CEO, Global Solar Council

Carlotta Ferri – Vice President and Advisor, EYEN (European Youth Energy Network)

Ramon Mendez Galain – Former Energy and Climate Minister, Uruguay & Executive Director, Fundacion Ivy

Germany – Represented by Michael Hackethal from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Sam Kimmins – Director of Energy, The Climate Group - RE100

Karabo Mokgonyana – Senior Campaigns Associate, Power Shift Africa

Maryke Van Staden – Director, Carbon Climate Centre ICLEI

Steering Committee 2025

The Steering Committee provides strategic oversight for REN21, ensuring activities align with its mission and long-term strategy. The 50 members who form the Steering Committee, represent diverse institutional stakeholders, supporting coordinated action and systemic impact. In February 2025, REN21 held elections for its Steering Committee during the General Assembly, resulting in a newly constituted Bureau. The process ensured broad representation across institutional members and reinforced transparency, accountability, and strategic oversight. These elections supported the alignment of REN21's governance with the new 2025–2030 strategy and strengthened the network's ability to coordinate action under the Renewable-Based Economy framework.

350.org	International Renewable Energy Agency
Alliance for Rural Electrification	Islamic Development Bank
Austria, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation & Technology	Long Duration Energy Storage Council
Brazil, Ministry of External Relations	MASEN, Morocco
Climate Action Network International	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Clean Cooking Alliance	Norway, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
CNE, Dominican Republic, National Energy Commission	Power Shift Africa
Council on Energy, Environment and Water	RE100/Climate Group
European Commission	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
European Renewable Energies Federation	RES4Africa Foundation
European Youth Energy Network	Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Germany: BMWK (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy) & BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)	Senior Fellow Kirsty Hamilton
Global Environment Facility	Senior Fellow Peter Rae
Global Solar Council	Senior Fellow Rabia Ferroukhi
Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition	SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport

Hydropower Sustainability Alliance	Stockholm Environment Institute
ICLEI	Sustainable Energy for All
International Energy Agency	The Energy and Resources Institute
International Hydropower Association	United Nations Development Programme
International Institute for Sustainable Development	United Nations Environment Programme
Islamic Development Bank	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
Long Duration Energy Storage Council	World Bank
MASEN, Morocco	World Bioenergy Association
National Renewable Energy Laboratory	World Resources Institute
Norway, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy	World Wind Energy Association
Power Shift Africa	Zimbabwe - Ministry of Energy



REN21 Secretariat



The REN21 Secretariat, composed of staff, consultants and interns, serves as the operational backbone of the network, enabling institutional members and the broader community to collaborate effectively and deliver impact across the global energy transition. Comprising a diverse team with expertise spanning policy, communications, data analysis, and programme management, the Secretariat ensures that the network's activities are strategically aligned and operationally coherent.

Funding

REN21's work is fully funded by voluntary contributions.

As an organisation, we remain highly cost-conscious, working with a lean budget to maximise impact. This approach ensures that every contribution – no matter its size – drives forward our mission to accelerate the global shift to a renewables-based economy. Our broad base of funding reflects strong trust in REN21's collaborative model and a shared commitment to accelerating the transition to renewables.

CORE FUNDING:

Germany (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – BMZ)

Austria (Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)

United Arab Emirates (Permanent Mission to the International Renewable Energy Agency)

Republic of Korea (Korean Energy Agency – KEA)

European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)

PROGRAMMATIC AND PROJECT FUNDING:

Germany (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy – BMW and Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety – BMUKN)

German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

International Climate Initiative (IKI)

European Climate Foundation (ECF)

International Hydropower Association (IHA)

Stichting Climate-KIC International Foundation (Climate KIC)

Kuehne Climate Center (KCC)



We thank all our funders for their continued partnership. Your support made it possible to generate trusted knowledge, foster meaningful dialogue and strengthen our global network. This continued commitment is vital as we put our new vision into action.

Financial Accounts 2024

REN21 Financial Accounts 2024	€	€
A. Non-Profit Business		
I. Non-taxable income		
1. Membership fees	0.00	
2. Grants	2,161,345.41	
3. Other income	6,051.95	
4. Income from currency translation	0.00	2,167,397.36
II. Non-taxable expenses		
1. In-house consultants (within the Secretariat)	543,876.02	
2. Wages and salaries	1,150,996.22	
3. Travel expenses	86,349.12	
4. Miscellaneous other expenses		
Consulting costs	38,475.26	
Advertising and print costs	85,435.38	
Rent	132,551.36	
Legal and tax consulting fees	28,275.14	

Office supplies and telephone	9,441.72	
Contributions and insurance	795.09	
Expenditure on licenses	83,662.53	
Incidental monetary transaction costs	1,803.49	
Other expenses	79,347.55	2,241,008.88
Profit		-73,611.52
B. Fund Management		
Income		
1. Tax-free income	0.00	
C. Profit/Loss carried forward prior year		136,772.74
D. Profit/Loss carried forward		63,161.22

REN21 SECRETARIAT

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