





TURNING THE TIDE

"Don't look up" with Leonardo Di Caprio and Meryl Streep was one of the block-buster star studded movies of 2021. The film is about two American astronomers discovering that a huge meteorite is about to destroy all life on Earth and their struggle to get society to accept this truth. It is, of course, an allegory about the climate crisis.

A brutal criticism of politics, lobbies and media all together, it raises the fundamental question of what people can do in the face of global denial.

At REN21, we stand on solid evidence. We have proof that with a rapid transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency, we can turn the tide. Our job is to catalyse a worldwide community of experts to engage decision makers in a dialogue to mainstream renewable energy.

We take pride in our crowd-sourced and peer-reviewed reports. REN21 provides strategic intelligence, combined with knowledge and know-how from our Community to support our growing impact and the shift to renewable energy.

In the past two years, REN21 has worked towards greater regionalisation with a focus on Africa and Southeast Asia. We have mobilised our efforts to create innovative formats for data and knowledge that meet the needs of decision makers. We have also successfully connected with highly strategic sectors like transport, heating/cooling, and cities. These sectors account for most of the total energy consumption. Transitioning them to renewables will have a rapid and significant impact on gas emissions.

Have a look at what our network has accomplished during the past two years. You will see that nothing can stop us. Let's roll up our sleeves and look up!

"Adaptability and forward-thinking are two of REN21's strengths. They enable the organisation to launch initiatives and discussions that would be impossible elsewhere and drive the conversation beyond the energy bubble."

Rabia Ferroukhi

Director Knowledge, Policy and Finance Center IRENA

2020-2021 IN NUMBERS

REN21 is the only global renewable energy community of actors from science, governments, NGOs and industry. We provide up-to-date, crowd-sourced and peer-reviewed facts, figures and analysis of global developments in technology, policies and markets. Our goal is to enable decision-makers shift to renewable energy - now!

THE POWER OF **CROWDSOURCING**

REN21's knowledge products are crowd-sourced from its community. Every year this community contributes information, data and expertise. The result: knowledge products that provide the best possible information on renewable energy.

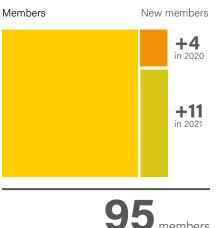
GSR 2020 **320** contributors

Renewables in Cities 2021 **350** contributors

GSR 2021 **352** contributors

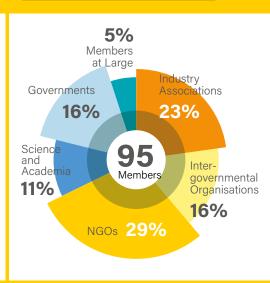
Total number of contributors

A GLOBAL VOICE: **GROWING THE NETWORK**



at the end of 2021

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS



BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER



ACADEMY 2020



A record number of participants for REN21's first virtual Academy

attendees



from

different countries, covering all continents

CONVENING AND DEBATING



Held globally and regionally, our RENdezvous series have become stellar events bringing people from all walks of life and sectors wanting to learn, share, discuss latest trends in renewable energies.



1,051

participants per event Total number of participants



global events



South East Asia events



Africa

SPREADING THE WORD

Media Pickup at Report Launches

Renewables 2020 Global Status Report

Renewables in Cities 2021 Global Status

Renewables

2021 Global Status Report

Report



Media articles



Languages

20

250

250





ONE KPI FOR ALL

Our yearly Renewables Global Status Report is the worldwide reference document for market, policy, and technology trends in renewable energy. Crowdsourced from hundreds of contributors from industry, NGOs, governments, and academia across the world, the latest two editions question why we are not leveraging crisis such as COVID-19 as an opportunity for transformation.

The good news is that the uptake of renewable power has been impressive over the past five years. Nevertheless, growth in the electricity sector alone is not enough. Sectors such as heating, cooling, and transport account for the greatest share of the total energy consumption yet they still massively rely on fossil fuels.



Another good news is that, in 2020, the primary energy demand fell by 4%. Despite this historic decline resulting from the Covid-19 induced slow down, G20 countries barely met their unambitious renewable energy targets and some countries even missed them. The last two editions of our *Renewables Global Status Report* send a clear warning. Progress in the electricity sector is offset by the world growing appetite for energy. With 80.2%, the share of fossil fuels in the total energy mix has not moved by one iota over the past decade.

"REN21 continues to infuse the international discussion around the energy transition with a range of perspectives and data, leading to the insightful and timely conclusions seen in its annual Renewables Global Status Report."

Anna Shpitsberg

United States Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Energy Transformation, US Department of State



Six times more investment in fossil fuels than in renewable energy

The 2021 report notes a wave of stronger commitments to action on the climate crisis, including net zero carbon emissions targets by China, Japan and South Korea. With announcements of funding for a green economic recovery taking public spending to unprecedented levels, 2020 was expected to be the "reset" year for the global climate economy and renewables. Unfortunately, instead of driving transformation, the recovery packages provided six times more investment in fossil fuels than in renewable energy.

Green recovery measures such as investment in renewables and building efficiency are more cost effective than traditional stimulus measures and yield more returns. Our reports document that renewables effectively deliver on job creation, energy sovereignty, accelerated energy access in developing countries, and cleaner air. Meanwhile the subsidies on fossil fuels are estimated at USD5.2 trillion as markets fail to include the costs to society of disease, premature deaths and planetary crisis.

"As the largest CSO alliance on all issues regarding climate change, CAN International strongly relies on and deeply appreciates the annually released and very sophisticated analysis in the Global Status Reports on renewables by the REN21 community."

Stephan Singer

Senior Climate Science and Global Energy Policy Advisor, Climate Action Network International





"As developing countries pursue industrialisation, it is critical to improve the role and understanding of how the renewable energy transition triggers economic development."

Tareq Emtairah

Director of the Energy Department, UNIDO

Major barriers persist in heating, cooling and transport

Today's progress in the power sector is largely the result of policies and regulations that were initiated years ago meanwhile highly strategic sectors such as heating, cooling and transport are still experiencing the same barriers they have been facing for over a decade. While the share of renewables in the power sector is almost 30%, the heating, cooling and transport sectors lag far behind with respectively 10% and 3%. We must stop heating homes and driving cars with fossil fuels.

Renewable energy systems support energy sovereignty. They empower citizens and communities, instead of big fossil fuel producers and users. When spending stimulus money, governments can decide to promote a system that serves everyone. In order to achieve meaningful development and climate goals, governments need to radically change the market conditions and rules and demonstrate the same leadership as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Make renewable energy a Key Performance Indicator (KPI)

Fossil fuels play a disastrous role in the three major crisis facing humanity today: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. At REN21, we try to unpack the reasons holding us back from phasing them out.

REN21's *Renewables Global Status Reports* clearly show that setting goals is not enough. Meeting these goals requires structural change and action on many fronts, from removing fossil fuel subsidies to changing transport and building regulations. Instead of slow walking the energy transition, we need all governments to put in place effective levers in every single economic area. As the window of opportunity is closing, it's high time to rapidly ramp up the efforts and make renewables a key performance indicator for every economic activity, every budget and every single public purchase.







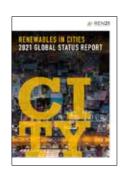
MIND THE GAP

Renewable energy can unlock new economic, social, and environmental potentials in many sectors – from cities and buildings to industry, agriculture, and transport. They all have their specific value chains, drivers, and rules, following their own logic. To mainstream renewables, we must break down silos and bridge the divide between cultures. We must overcome gaps of information, motivation, regulation, skills and experience.

REN21 works not only to connect different players across all energy sectors and disciplines, but also reaches out to non-energy actors. In the past two years, REN21 published three major reports and a policy brief in collaboration with experts from different sectors. These publications were widely presented and discussed, including at the COP Glasgow Climate Summit.

"REN21 plays an important role in bringing together key players in the renewable energy transition."

Sam Kimmins Head of RE100, Climate Group



No energy transition without cities - and governments giving them the power to act

In Glasgow, city mayors demonstrated leadership on the road to net-zero by showcasing their renewable energy projects and their plans. Local action

on renewables has reached a new level, motivated by climate change, but also driven by public pressure and the need to improve living standards by creating clean and equitable communities. In 2020, more than 1 billion people – around 25% of the urban population – lived in a city with a renewable energy target and/or policy.

REN21 captures these trends in its *Renewables in Cities Global Status Report*, the only stocktaking of cities' energy transition efforts worldwide. Over 350 experts and peer reviewers contributed to the 2021 edition. An Advisory Committee of more than 20 renewable energy and city networks endorsed this work. In a collaborative process, information was collected on hundreds of cities, ranging from small towns to mega-cities.

The report shows that often, purchasing renewable electricity for the city's own operations is one of the first steps local leaders take. But city governments do and can do much more, for instance, setting renewable energy targets, including them in local planning tools,

and working with communities and businesses to reach them. They can also play an important role in changing the way local economies respond to renewable energy.

An end date to the use of gas, oil or coal in cities

By 2020, 43 cities had set an end date to the use of gas, oil or coal, and enforced fossil fuel bans in heating and/or transport - 5 times as many as in 2019. Encouraging stories from all over the world show that cities are game changers in the fight against emissions and air pollution.

But as inspiring as these examples are, we are still a far cry from what is needed to timely curb climate change and to provide the needed energy services. Many cities do not have the human and financial resources to develop renewables. They need national governments to give them the muscles to act. Our biennial report is an important tool to spread the word.

"Associations such as UITP and REN21 collaborate to help both the public transport and renewable energy sectors understand levers of behavioural change and the impact of new technologies, providing critical platforms to exchange, best practices and the necessary debate."

> **Mohamed Mezghani** Secretary General, UITP



What's hot and what's cool in the transition to renewables

The shift to renewables for heating and cooling requires enabling infrastructure such as gas grids, district heating and cooling networks as well as various combinations of deployment, integrating and enabling policies.

Established in cooperation with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the report *Renewable Energy Policies in a Time of Transition: Heating and Cooling* identifies five technological pathways to increase the uptake of renewables in the heating and cooling sector depending on energy demand, resource availability and the needs and priorities of each country or region.

Along with highlighting country experiences and best practices, it recommends a suite of innovative policies to address existing barriers for each technology in buildings and industrial processes. The report also provides insights on how to capitalise on renewables to reduce the energy access gap in low and medium income economies.

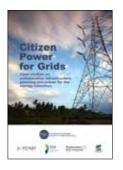




Riding smoothly with renewables

Shifting people to public transport running on renewable energy is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions and improve local air quality. REN21 has therefore teamed up with the FIA Foundation¹ for an in-depth study on *Renewable Energy Pathways for Road Transport*. It discusses opportunities and challenges, investigates policies and regulatory frameworks, and identifies remaining gaps.

REN21 also partnered with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) to publish A smooth ride to renewable energy: 7 actions for public transport to address emissions and air pollution by advancing renewables. The policy brief targets public transport authorities, public transport operators, urban planners and anyone interested in advancing renewables in public transport.



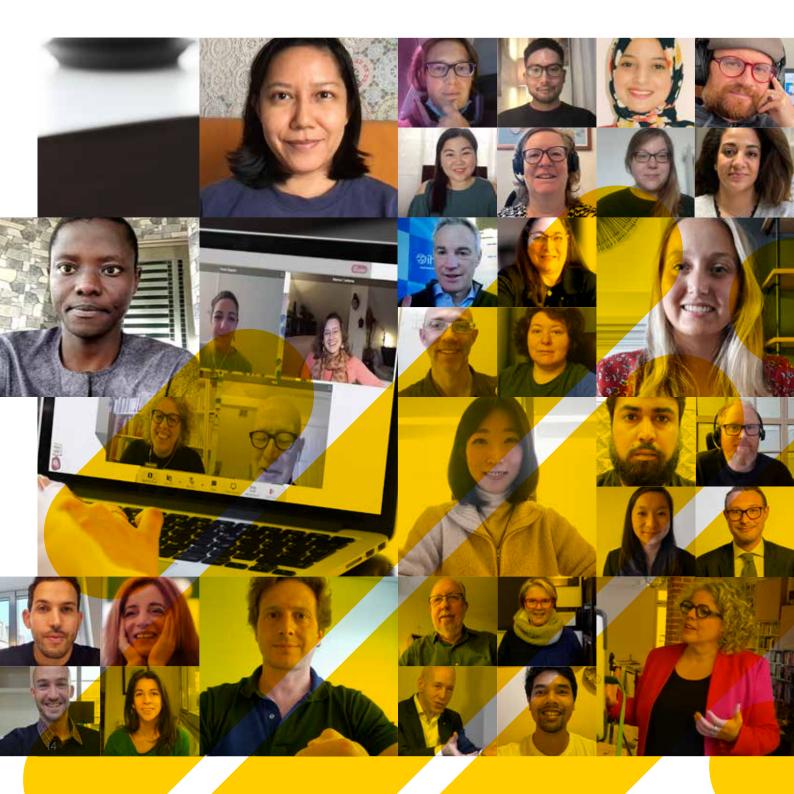
When citizens take ownership of planning

Just as much as policy and regulation, energy infrastructure planning is fundamental to changing the energy system. High shares of renewable power sources and a new geographical distribution of large and small generation will require a significant overhaul and expansion of existing electricity grids.

As partner of the project Paris-Agreement Compatible Scenarios for Energy Infrastructure (PAC 1.0), REN21 hosted two workshops with a panel of speakers who discussed case studies of citizen engagement in grid planning processes.

Planning is often left to experts who follow established routines for centralised systems. This reality tends to overlook the critical dimension of cultural and social acceptance in planning for change. At REN21 we strongly believe in citizen engagement and therefore are keen to support those who foster new alliances between experts and civil society.

¹ The FIA Foundation is a UK registered charity promoting research, disseminating the results of research and providing information in any matters of public interest which include road safety, automobile technology, the protection and preservation of human life and public health, transport and public mobility and the protection of the environment.

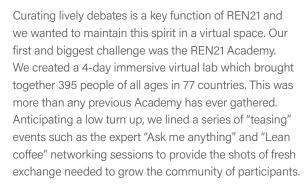




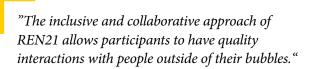
VIRTUALLY YOURS

It was that time of the year when we start planning for our big biennial highlight, the REN21 Academy, when the lockdowns struck. Bam!

As an international crew we are used to connecting with people on different continents, but we were suddenly faced with the challenge of "virtualising" events that normally stretch over several days with people moving around rooms buzzing of human energy. In order to continue curating the processes which should ultimately take us from renewable energy evolution to revolution, we decided to rise by the challenge and take our very own culture of interactive events online.



Each of the 4 days had a purpose, with moments built in for the community to network across regions and sectors and to jointly develop practical solutions. Combining plenary sessions, interactive workshops, get-togethers and fun breaks, Academy discussions focussed on how the community can become more forceful in demanding the change required in policymaking, market structures and society in general.



Ayu Abdullah

Co-Executive Director, Energy Action Partners





Over the past two years, youth have shown up as a strong force demanding and living change. Reason enough for us to invite young professionals to shape REN21's first ever "Young Professionals Day" and kick-off the four core Academy days. With 400 applicants vying for only 100 participant slots, the clear message was that such events are needed.

"If REN21 didn't exist, we would have to invent it. The organisation plays a valuable role to advance practical policy solutions in the clean energy transition."

Eddie Rich

Chief Executive Officer, International Hydropower Association

RENdez-vous: regular gatherings to connect across borders and sectors

To preserve those precious close connections across the globe and create momentum for continued discussion, we initiated virtual RENdez-vous, a series of events that have rapidly become highly popular where people from different regions and sectors connect and discuss new insights.

With each RENdez-vous we dive into topics and themes that are connected to the overall objective of building a renewable energy future together. Our objective is to catalyse listening and thinking outside the box by connecting different perspectives and ecosystems.

Alternating between a global and regional focus, the series builds around information exchange, learning and sharing, and collaborative action. In 2021 specific regional series were dedicated to Southeast-Asia and Africa.



SOFT SKILLS AND HARD TALKS

2020-2021 saw extraordinary developments in terms of ambitions. While the IEA issued its netzero scenario, fossil fuel monoliths such as Shell, Exxon, or Chevron faced public backlash in courts and board rooms. Nonetheless, the gap between ambition and action is widening. While mature and cost-effective solutions exist, the energy transition is not happening at the speed needed.

Renewables voices remain scattered. The diversity of players engaging in renewable energy is increasing, as are the drivers and the different narratives. We see a renewable energy discourse, a sustainable energy discourse, a climate discourse, a development discourse. Though desirable, this diversity needs to be integrated instead of running on parallel tracks.

Resources are limited. Compared to the fossil fuel sector, the renewable energy sector has little resources for communication, marketing and lobbying. Efforts are often drowned under misinformation spread by the

fossil fuel and nuclear lobbies. To keep the renewables agenda relevant and in the forefront, we need to create strategic messaging and partnerships for amplification. We must become better at telling our renewable stories and put a human face to the economics and science of renewables.

All too often, we forget that there are innumerable layers of economic and political interests, of encrusted structures, of personal interests, experiences, priorities, blind spots, and deeply rooted bias in the debate. All of these must be addressed. All of this requires leadership. The renewable energy community must identify new approaches, involve new players, find new opportunities and... become more strategic.





Strategic Intelligence

Thanks to philanthropic funding, REN21 developed a pilot project called the Renewables Energy Task Force (RETF). The Task Force unites the renewable energy community from different walks of life and geographies as a single voice for renewables. With the goal of mainstreaming and prioritizing renewables in the political and economic responses globally, the RETF works along three streams:

- Strategic communication, campaigning, and advocacy
- Cultivating links and multipliers
- Curating evidence, research, and materials

Review of RETF activities showed that the renewables community needs to become more targeted in sharing information, in identifying and forming strategic alliances, in developing the renewables narrative and addressing blind spots.



"We are proud to be part of REN21's forum of policy makers, industry, civil society and other actors who collaborate towards the common goal of the global energy transition, an objective that is now more urgent than ever."



CEO, Global Wind Energy Council



"International cooperation is key to consolidating the transformation of our energy systems."

Alfonso Blanco

Executive Secretary, Latin America Energy Organization (OLADE)

Stepping up our Game with AI

With TSC, REN21 develops an Al-based tool to identify trending issues, stakeholders and leverage points. The tool identifies the most prevalent topics in public debates, how they are perceived and who the stakeholders are. This information serves to inform our communication strategies, knowledge products and partnerships with local players.

In the year to come, we intend to further develop activities around strategic intelligence especially regarding the support we provide to the community in capitalizing more strategically on each other and amplifying the reach and impact of their voice.



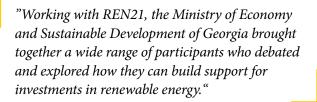


Hard Talks

A key example of uniting diverse voices and catalysing change is the coordination of Hard Talks. Together, REN21, the German Energy Agency (dena) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) continued their series of dialogues named "Renewable Energy Hard Talks" with government agencies, parliament, private investors, energy producers and consumers, financial and research institutions, and NGOs in select UNECE Member States.

In 2021, "Hard Talks" were held in Albania, Georgia and Serbia, respectively with the goal to increase the deployment of renewable energy in these countries by identifying key barriers that block investment and create a well-functioning framework for the development of the sector. The focus topics were determined by a series of interviews and conversations with key stakeholders in the countries.





Margalita Arabidze

Head of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia







NEW AVENUES

The beginning of 2022 found us experiencing continuing turbulence and faced with significant challenges ahead. The anticipated post-Covid economic rebound is likely to rapidly throw us back on the tracks of soaring carbon emissions and pollution. Meanwhile, fossil energy markets are tighter than ever, and record energy prices are setting the scene in many parts of the world.

In contrast and thanks to the important technology progress, renewables have become one of the most competitive energy sources in many areas. Discussions and activities are heating up on next generation renewable energy technologies, evolving options for long-duration energy storage, the construction of renewable energy islands, the future of transport, green hydrogen for industry, smart cities, zero-emission buildings... and the appropriate policies to accelerate delivery.

We need to bring these conversations to the decisionmaking table across the world. If we want to speed up the shift to renewables, efficiency, and electrification, intensifying international cooperation is necessary. At REN21 we are ready to play our part. Building on our institutional strengths and our role in the current environment, we will continue to focus on:

- building the expertise of the network globally, regionally, across thematic issues and bridging to non-renewable energy sectors
- creating an enabling environment to shift to renewables by reinforcing and spreading REN21's approach
- a vision that builds on the momentum and the associated opportunities created in 2021

Our activities will be clustered around four activity areas:



ACCOUNTS 2019

All values in Euro (€)	2019	Total
Non-taxable income		
Membership fees	0.00	
Grants	1,944,615.48	
Income from currency conversion	465.18	
		1,945,080.66
Non-taxable expenses		
1. In-house consultants	1,016,326.22	
(REN21 Secretariat, external researchers)		
2. Wages and salaries	521,375.05	
3. Travel expenses	181,580.46	
4. Miscellaneous other expenses		
Consulting costs	49,536.77	
Advertising and printing costs	81,357.67	
Rent	0	
Legal and tax consulting fees	8,330.00	
Office supplies and telephone	5,091.55	
Contributions and insurance	1,200.87	
Incidental monetary transaction costs	2,096.67	
Other expenses	127,440.84	
		1,994,336.10
Profit/loss		-49,225.14
Fund management		
Tax free income		0.38
Loss carried forward prior year		-17,633.49
Profit/loss carried forward		-66,888.55



ACCOUNTS 2020

Non-taxable income 0.00 Grants 1,776,144.59 Income from currency conversion 223.53 Non-taxable expenses 1,776,368.12 Non-taxable expenses 1. In-house consultants 889,353.92 (REN21 Secretariat, external researchers) 2. Wages and salaries 668,556.64 3. Travel expenses 16,586.79 4. Miscellaneous other expenses Consulting Advertising and print costs 77,710.43 Rent 49,235.00 Legal and tax consulting fees 6,000.00 Office supplies and telephone 2,596.77 Contributions and insurance 2,745.56 Incidental monetary transaction costs 2,412.85 Other expenses 63,916.61 Tend management Tax free income 0.19 Loss carried forward prior year -66,888.55 Profit/loss carried forward -143,802.23	All values in Euro (€)	2020	Total
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Note: The 2020 loss results from a historical provision for payment gap recovery for 2017 funding of € 68,857.85 carried forward, which was later reduced by € 22,164.47, as well as a delay of IREC funding of €125.000,00, due to COVID. It is foreseen to settle these losses in 2021, REN21 has begun integrating overhead costs in project budgeting.

REN21 MEMBERS

Research and Academia

AEE - Institute for Sustainable Technologies (AEE INTEC)

Centre on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Fundación Bariloche

National Research University Higher School of Economics Russia (HSE) 1)

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

International Solar Energy Society (ISES)

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI)

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

University of Technology - Institute for Sustainable Futures (UTSISF)²⁾ World Resources Institute (WRI)

Governments and Government Agencies

Afghanistan

Austria²⁾

Brazil

Denmark

Dominican Republic

Germany

India

Mexico

Norway

Republic of Korea

South Africa

South Australia²⁾

Spain

United Arab Emirates

United States of America

Inter-governmental Organisations

Asia Pacific Energy Research Center (APERC)

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)

European Commission

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

International Energy Agency (IEA)

International Renewable Energy

Association (IRENA)

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

OLADE (Latin American Energy Organization)²⁾

Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Industrial

Development Organization (UNIDO)

World Bank



Non-governmental Organisations

Association Africaine pour l'Electrification Rurale (CLUB-ER)

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA)

Climate Action Network International (CAN-I)

Coalition de Ciudades Capitales de las Americas (CC35)¹⁾

Energy Cities

Energy (GFSE)

Fundacion Renovables

Global 100% Renewable Energy Platform

Global Forum on Sustainable

Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)

Greenpeace International

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)

International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

Jeune Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE)

Mali Folkecenter

PowerforAll

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)

Renewable Energy Institute (REI)

Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)²⁾

SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport

Solar Cookers International (SCI)

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll)²⁾

World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE)

World Future Council (WFC)
World Wildlife Fund for Nature
(WWF)

Industry Associations

Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA)

Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)

American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)

Associação Lusófona de Energias Renováveis (ALER)

Associação Portuguesa de Energias Renováveis (APREN)

Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA)

Clean Energy Council (CEC)

Electric Power Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Executive Committee)²⁾

Euroheat & Power (EHP) 1)

European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)²⁾

European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)

Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)

Global Solar Council (GSC)

Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)

Indian Renewable Energy Federation (IREF)

International Geothermal Association (IGA)

International Hydropower Association (IHA)

RE100/Climate Group²⁾

Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa Foundation (RES4Africa)

Solar Power Europe 1)

UITP (Union Internationale des Transports Publics)²⁾

World Bioenergy Association

World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)

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Text and Layout

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