

Annual Report 2016

The background of the entire page is a dark blue-grey color. Overlaid on this is a complex network diagram consisting of numerous small, light-yellow dots of varying sizes. These dots are interconnected by a dense web of thin, light-yellow lines, creating a sense of global connectivity and a complex system. In the center of this network is a large, solid yellow circle.

CONNECTING THE DOTS: CONVENING MULTI- STAKEHOLDERS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

2016

REN21

Message from REN21	3
REN21 Secretariat	4
REN21 Members	5
REN21 Product page	6
Milestones and Events	8

PUBLICATIONS

Renewables 2016 Global Status Report ...	10
EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report	13
UNECE (Russian language version)	13
Renewables 100% Global Futures Report .	13

NETWORK & OUTREACH

Developing Networks and Expanding Outreach Efforts	14
REN21 Community	15
REN21 Networks and Outreach Efforts ..	16
Developing Partnerships	17

FUTURE OUTLOOK & FACTS

Catalysing Discussion and Debate	18
REN21 2015 Accounts	18
Future Outlook	19

Message from REN21 | 2016

2016 began, riding on the momentum of the Paris Agreement. The commitment by 195 countries to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius sent a clear signal: we have to radically rethink how we produce and consume energy if we are to meet this target. The pledge of 48 climate vulnerable countries at COP22 to use only renewable energy by 2050 further strengthens this resolve.

Building on the energy of COP21, REN21 expanded its efforts on “connecting the dots” to drive the energy transition. The Secretariat worked to link the private and public sector on renewable energy issues: it hosted events to bring stakeholders from different sectors together to debate and identify points of commonality; it provided high quality information about what is happening in the renewables realm in “real time” so that decision-makers could make the best decisions possible; it connected 800 renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access experts from around the world to provide the latest data.

The connections formed around the *Renewables 2016 Global Status Report* were the highlight of the year. One hundred and eighty experts joined the 2016 report process, equivalent to the total number of GSR experts in 2012. By the end of 2016 REN21 had a total of 2050 reviewers and contributors in its network. Collectively this network engages in the GSR process, giving their time, contributing data and providing comment in the peer review process. The result is nothing less than a compelling story about renewable energy growth in all parts of the world.

The Secretariat also used the GSR 2016 release to engage more broadly with potential users by tailoring its outreach activities to specific regions. It produced regionally specific data sheets, translating them into the dominant regional language. The Key Findings were made available in eight different languages, a video was produced and a new microsite allowed all the GSR text and data to be readily translated via a web browser. The results paid off: coverage and interest in GSR and in REN21’s work doubled.

A regional workshop brought the transport and heating and cooling sectors together to discuss the role of renewables. Outreach with Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and beyond brought government and the private sector together to openly discuss the barriers and solutions for increasing market share of renewables. Work began in earnest on a new Global Futures Report, which will be launched in early 2017.

The above are a few examples of how REN21 connects the private and public sector to create real opportunities for increased renewable energy and energy efficiency uptake. Given REN21’s unique nature as global multi-stakeholder network, the organisation is strategically placed to collaborate with all key players of the global energy architecture.




Arthouros Zervos
Chair



Christine Lins
Executive Secretary

REN21

Members

By end of 2016, REN21 counted 61 organisations and governments as its members.

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)
 American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)
 Association for Renewable Energy of Lusophone Countries (ALER)
 Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA)
 Clean Energy Council (CEC)
 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)
 Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (RES4MED)
 World Bioenergy Association (WBA)
 World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APERC)
 ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
 European Commission (EC)
 Global Environment Facility (GEF)
 International Energy Agency (IEA)
 International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
 Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 UN Environment (UNEP)
 United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
 World Bank (WB)

NGOS

Climate Action Network (CAN)
 Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
 Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC)
 Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE)
 Greenpeace International
 ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia
 Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)
 Mali Folkecenter / Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CURES)
 Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)
 Renewable Energy Institute (REI)
 World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE)
 World Future Council (WFC)
 World Resources Institute (WRI)
 World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Michael Eckhart
 Mohamed El-Ashry
 David Hales
 Kirsty Hamilton
 Peter Rae

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Brazil
 Denmark
 Germany
 India
 Norway
 Spain
 South Africa
 United Arab Emirates
 United States of America

SCIENCE AND ACADEMIA

Fundacion Bariloche
 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)

CHAIR

Arthouros Zervos
 National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Christine Lins
 REN21

REN21

Secretariat

REN21, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, is a multi-stakeholder network on renewable energy. Its Secretariat, based at UN Environment in Paris, France, implements the strategy agreed by REN21's Steering Committee. The Secretariat facilitates the collection of comprehensive and timely information on renewable energy which is then made publically available through REN21's publications, presentations, discussions and debates.

In 2016 a new staff member joined to assist with the Secretariat's day-to-day operations. REN21 interns continued to provide a valuable supporting role. The REN21 Secretariat is composed of the following team members:

Christine Lins	Executive Secretary
Rana Adib	Research Coordinator
Martin Hullin	Project Manager
Hannah E. Murdock	Renewable Energy Analyst
Katharina Satzinger	Executive Assistant & Office Manager
Laura E. Williamson	Communication & Outreach Manager

Interns **Daniele Kielmanowicz** *(September 2015 – February 2016)*
Shweta Miriam Koshy *(September 2015 – February 2016)*
Stefanie Di Domenico *(March – August 2016)*
Rashmi Jawahar *(March – August 2016)*
Linh Nguyen *(September 2016 – February 2017)*
Satrio S. Prillianto *(October 2016 – March 2017)*

PRODUCT PAGE

Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century

REN21 is the global renewable energy policy multi-stakeholder network that connects a wide range of key actors. REN21's goal is to facilitate knowledge exchange, policy development and joint action towards a rapid global transition to renewable energy.

REN21 brings together governments, non-governmental organisations, research and academic institutions, international organisations and industry to learn from one another and build on successes that advance renewable energy. To assist policy decision-making, REN21 provides high-quality information, catalyses discussion and debate, and supports the development of thematic networks.

REN21 facilitates the collection of comprehensive and timely information on renewable energy. This information reflects diverse viewpoints from both private and public sector actors, serving to dispel myths about renewable energy and to catalyse policy change. It does this through six product lines:



Global Status Report:
yearly publication since 2005

RENEWABLES GLOBAL STATUS REPORT (GSR)

First released in 2005, REN21's *Renewables Global Status Report* (GSR) has grown to become a truly collaborative effort, drawing on an international network of authors, contributors and reviewers. Today it is the most frequently referenced report on renewable energy market, industry and policy trends.

REGIONAL REPORTS

These reports detail the renewable energy developments of a particular region; their production also supports regional data collection processes and informed decision making.

RENEWABLES INTERACTIVE MAP

The Renewables Interactive Map is a research tool for tracking the development of renewable energy worldwide. It complements the perspectives and findings of REN21's Global and Regional Status Reports by providing continually updated market and policy information as well as offering detailed, exportable country profiles.

GLOBAL FUTURE REPORTS (GFR)

REN21 produces reports that illustrate the credible possibilities for the future of renewables within particular thematic areas.

RENEWABLES ACADEMY

The REN21 Renewables Academy provides an opportunity for lively exchange among the growing community of REN21 contributors. It offers a venue to brainstorm on future-orientated policy solutions and allows participants to actively contribute on issues central to a renewable energy transition.

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCES (IREC)

The International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) is a high-level political conference series. Dedicated exclusively to the renewable energy sector, the biennial IREC is hosted by a national government and convened by REN21.



Regional Reports



Global Futures Report



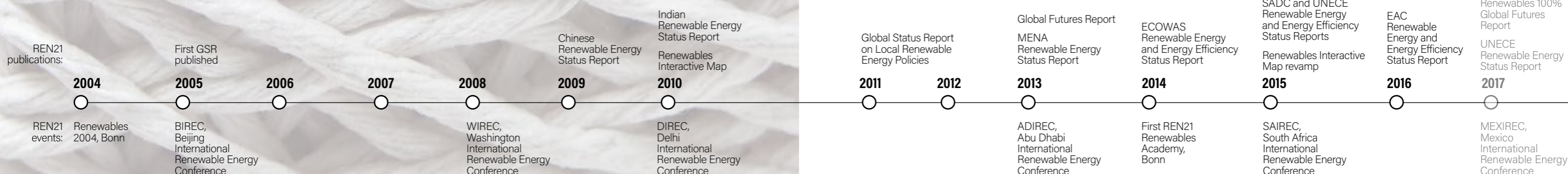
www.ren21.net/map



REN21
Renewables Academy



International
Renewable Energy
Conferences





JANUARY

- Attendance at IRENA Assembly and World Future Energy Summit, Abu Dhabi/United Arab Emirates
- REN21 hosts regional brainstorming workshop on regional cooperation on renewable energy and energy efficiency
- REN21 offices move to new Paris location



FEBRUARY

- Presentation at 3rd Annual Workshop on Advancing SEforALL Country Action in Africa, Abidjan/Cote D'Ivoire
- Presentation at Mexico Wind Power Exhibition and Congress, Mexico City/Mexico

REN21 ACTIVITIES

Key milestones and events in 2016



MARCH

- Keynote at Africa-EU Renewable Energy Research Symposium, Tiemcen/Algeria
- Panel moderation at Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue, Berlin/Germany
- Moderated discussion at SADC Renewable Energy Scoping Workshop, Gaborone/Botswana
- SADC Interactive Map made available



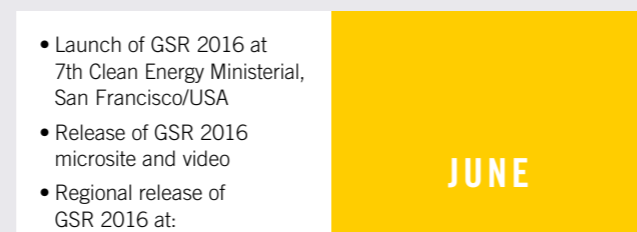
APRIL

- Keynote at ARE-RECP Off-Grid Investment Forum, Amsterdam/Netherlands
- Panel discussion at UNIDO workshop at Hannover Messe, Hannover/Germany



MAY

- Hosted outreach activities at United Nations Environment Assembly-2, Nairobi/Kenya
- Presentation at Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre Annual Conference, Tokyo/Japan



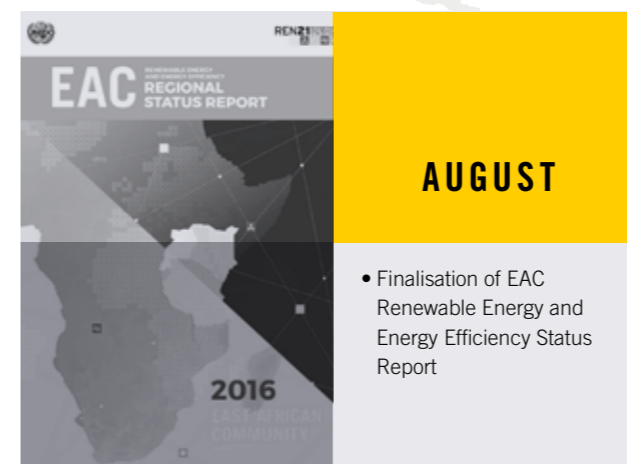
JUNE

- Launch of GSR 2016 at 7th Clean Energy Ministerial, San Francisco/USA
- Release of GSR 2016 microsite and video
- Regional release of GSR 2016 at:
 - Asia Clean Energy Forum, Manila/Philippines
 - Swedish Parliament, Stockholm/Sweden
 - EU Sustainable Energy Week, Brussels/Belgium
 - Intersolar, Munich/Germany
 - Ecoforum, Guiyang/China
- Panel discussion, Women's Forum for Economy and the Society, Flic en Flac/Mauritius



JULY

- NREL and REN21 host GSR 2016 thematic webinars across the globe



AUGUST

- Finalisation of EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report



SEPTEMBER

- Launch of EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report, 3rd International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference, Kenya/Nairobi



OCTOBER

- Release of GSR 2016 Key Findings in Russian
- Moderation of high-level panel at EU-Caribbean Sustainable Energy Conference, Bridgetown/Barbados
- Presentations at:
 - 11th ISES EuroSun Conference, Mallorca/Spain
 - REENCON XXI International Renewable Energy Congress, Moscow/Russia
 - 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Baku/Azerbaijan
- Panel discussion at Renewable Energy Day at Habitat III, Quito/Ecuador
- Keynote at 5th Annual Renewable Energy Finance in Practice Forum, Vienna/Austria
- Keynote at High-Level Seminar: Accelerating Sustainable Energy for All in Landlocked Developing Countries through Innovative Partnerships, Vienna/Austria
- Keynote at Opening of World Wind Energy Conference, Tokyo/Japan



NOVEMBER

- Keynote at Seoul International Energy Conference, Seoul/Korea
- Keynote at 1st World Wind Energy Conference, Fukushima/Japan
- REN21 hosts renewable energy events at climate talks (COP22), Marrakech/Morocco
- Release GSR 2016 Key Findings in Farsi, Japanese and Portuguese



DECEMBER

- REN21 Steering Committee Meeting, Paris/France
- Organisation of high-level workshops, Kiev/Ukraine; Tbilisi /Georgia
- Release of GSR 2016 in Korean

PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY INFORMATION ON RENEWABLES

Good decisions are based on reliable information



REN21 RENEWABLES 2016 GLOBAL STATUS REPORT

The *Renewables 2016 Global Status Report* (GSR 2016) revealed that renewables are now firmly established as competitive, mainstream sources of energy in many countries around the world. 2015 was a record year for renewable energy installations. Renewable power generating capacity saw its largest increase ever. Modern renewable heat capacity

also continued to rise, and renewables use expanded in the transport sector. However as the report documented, regulatory policies in the power sector cover over 87% of the world population while regulatory policies in the heating and cooling and transport sectors cover 50% and 73% respectively. Energy efficiency policies and targets were also shown using a global map for readers to see easily where uptake of these policies is occurring and where there are no policies/targets or no data available.

Distributed renewable energy (DRE) is also advancing rapidly to close the gap between the energy haves- and have-nots. Investment in the sector was over USD 276 million in 2015, bringing the total since 2010 to more than USD 511 million. The GSR 2016 coverage on DRE was double the length of that of GSR 2014, reflecting the importance of this sector in providing energy services.

This year's feature looked at the community renewable energy and its increasing uptake across the world. Consolidated data on community initiatives are very limited particularly in the developing world, as information is decentralised and often is not collected at the local level. REN21 will continue to monitor developments in this sector and has included several questions on this topic in its latest data collection process.

There is a clear link between environmental protection, poverty reduction, economic growth and technology developments, and this work on cross-cutting issues cannot be done in silos. Continuing on the work started with the GSR 2014 Key Findings, this year's section "Mainstreaming Renewables: Guidance for Policy Makers" presented four central recommendations: 1) level the playing field by phasing out fossil fuels; 2) think beyond the power sector by strengthening the role of renewables in the heating and cooling and transport sectors; 3) plan for a distributed future by planning proactively for a future with a higher amount of distributed energy generation; and 4) adapt to the new, complex energy system by implementing systemic, cross-cutting approach to scale-up renewables.

The Renewables 2016 Global Status Report was launched 1 June at the 7th Clean Energy Ministerial in San Francisco, USA and consisted of three events: a sneak preview of the 2016 report at a CEM-side event; a webinar held with REN21 partners, the Clean Energy Solutions Center and ACORE; and a presentation at the high-level event: Public Private Action Summit. The launch was complemented with press outreach and a social media campaign. Hard copies of the Key Findings were distributed widely.



Additional **regional releases** were held in Manila at the Asia Clean Energy Forum, at the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm, at the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels, in Munich, Germany at Intersolar and at the Ecoforum Global in Guiyang, China. Each release had a regional focus and was complemented with a thematic webinar.

A new communication strategy was used for the 2016 launch. Review of the 2015 launch revealed that awareness of the reports and its findings in Latin/South America and Africa were low and needed to be improved. REN21 partnered with other communicators to raise awareness about the report and the status of renewable energy in each region. Outreach focused on making sure that the press and relevant organisations were aware of the report and its findings. Regional briefing sheets were prepared and translated into the relevant language. Outreach was honed for each region and press material was written in clear, accessible language.

A second component of this year's outreach strategy was to utilise better the **social media sphere**. A Thunderclap campaign was used 1 June to spread the news of the report far and wide. People agreed ahead of time to allow REN21 to use their Twitter account to spread the announcement of the report's release. At 9:00 am on the day of the launch over 960,000 people received a tweet announcing the availability of the report.

“Renewable energy future is unstoppable! 2015 broke the records: see www.ren21/gsr #GSR2016 #REN21 #CEM7 <http://thndr.me/klrbH5>”

GSR 2016 press releases were prepared in the following 11 languages:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- Farsi
- French
- German
- Greek
- Japanese
- Korean
- Portuguese
- Spanish

“As part of the editorial team for the NREL Annual Technology Baseline (ATB), I can certainly say, we look to the GSR as the gold standard to which the ATB can evolve. As a contributor to the GSR, thank you very much for the opportunity to be part of it.”

Parthiv Kurup
Technology Systems and Sustainability Analysis Group, Strategic Energy Analysis Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory



Two weeks after its launch, over 1,700 full GSR news articles appeared in print and online; coverage in 2015 was 920 articles over the same period. When including blogs and reference to GSR 2016 on organisational websites the number rose to over 1,800.

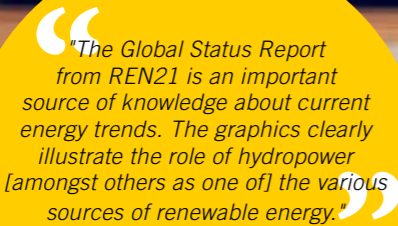
Articles appeared in the Guardian, Le Monde, La Liberation, Deutsche Welle, El Mundo, Fortune Magazine, CBCN, Independent, Washington Post, BBC, Reuters Wire, Sydney Morning Herald as well as in numerous Chinese and Latin American journals.

Coverage appeared in 31 different languages:

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| • Albanian | • Arabic | • Bulgarian |
| • Chinese | • Czech | • Dutch |
| • English | • Estonian | • Filipino |
| • Finnish | • French | • German |
| • Greek | • Hungarian | • Indonesian |
| • Italian | • Japanese | • Korean |
| • Lithuanian | • Norwegian | • Polish |
| • Portuguese | • Romanian | • Russian |
| • Slovakian | • Slovenian | • Spanish |
| • Swedish | • Turkish | • Urdu |
| • Vietnamese | | |

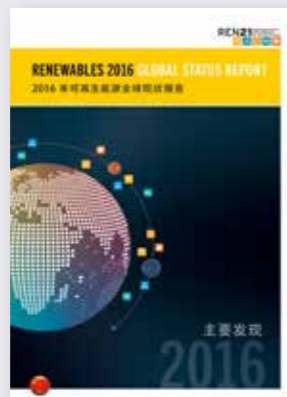
The report was covered in radio and television including Al Jazeera, BBC News and CNBC. The presence on social media was overwhelming with more than 4,500 individual tweets going out over the "airwaves".

4,500 TWEETS



User views for the GSR 2016 webpage increased 3.5% (25,070) over 2015 numbers for the 3 week period following the launch date. The Renewables Interactive Map had 55% more visitors (3,802) in 2016 than 2015 numbers over the same period.

Regular information on the GSR can be found on:



on-line press stories

countries covered report
release in their media

number of languages in
which the release of
GSR 2016 was reported

downloads of the
GSR 2016 (Full report
and Key Findings)

While trends are generally positive, the report highlighted several challenges that remain to

The report was launched 1 October at the 3rd International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. It was produced with financial support from UNIDO. The report is available for download along with a series of infographics.

barriers and solutions for increasing market uptake within the host country. Findings from the *UNECE Renewables Status Report* were used as the starting point for discussion. Workshop results will be used to inform in-country developments and to update the Status Report; a revised version of which will be released in 2017.

However, what works in one country doesn't necessarily work in another. Finding solutions for some sectors is easier than for others. In 2016 REN21 embarked on developing a *Renewables 100% Global Futures Report*. This report follows on the tradition of

The report will be published in early 2017.

DEVELOPING NETWORKS AND EXPANDING OUTREACH EFFORTS

REN21 worked with experts and other networks around the world to promote renewables and build-up networks

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

REN21's strength is its community. The REN21 community is a multi-stakeholder network that works collectively to share its insight and knowledge helping to advance the energy transition with renewables through high quality publications and events.

REN21's Brainstorming Workshop is an example of this. This workshop brought together regional data providers and thematic experts from both the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. Over three days these experts discussed the role of renewable energy in the transport and heating and cooling sectors and how—through their own work—they could facilitate an increase in the share of renewables in these sectors. More importantly, these experts helped the Secretariat understand the various drivers in these sectors for using renewables and what synergies exist for working together. The workshop was held 11-13 January in Paris and co-hosted with UNIDO.

Six thematic webinars were held as part of the outreach activities surrounding the GSR 2016 launch. Each webinar was linked to a regional release. The thematic issue was relevant to the region and the presentation was given by a REN21 member. The webinars were held in cooperation with REN21's partner the Clean Energy Solutions Center and covered:

- Domination of Renewables: 2015 developments
- Community Renewable Energy: Citizens involvement in the energy transition
- Renewables Rising: The role of grid integration
- Off-grid Renewables: Energy access and market opportunity
- Global View on Solar Heating and Cooling: Market, industry and policy
- Renewables Rising: The status of solar in 2015

This year's climate change talks (**UNFCCC COP22**) provided REN21 with the opportunity to develop additional events that looked at the intersection of a particular sector with that of renewables.

REN21 hosted a session at the **Transport Days 2016** that looked at electric mobility and the energy-transport nexus. Of all sectors, decarbonisation of the transport sector is the most challenging. There are distinct advantages for the transport and energy sector to work together: integrating planning efforts to energy and transport security; reducing the risk of stranded assets; developing new products and business models to meet cities' sustainability objectives. The session looked at the sectoral drivers in the transport and renewables sectors. It identified opportunities for strategic partnerships to achieve high shares of renewables and attain sustainability objectives. The session was hosted in cooperation with REN21 member, SLoCaT.



A second REN21 **COP outreach event** looked at the emerging concept of interconnecting stand-alone, renewable power systems, mini-grids and potentially connecting to the grid. This approach could be an opportunity to establish a renewable energy-based power infrastructure. This brainstorming event brought together those working in the areas of energy access and off-grid renewable power.

A joint event with REN21 members, Greenpeace and the World Future Council, looked at what is needed to achieve a 1.5°C world and challenged panelists to answer the question about how to go from theory to practice if 100% renewables is the goal. Over 250 people attended the event attesting to the growing interest of renewables as a cornerstone of climate action.

REN21 COMMUNITY

Today the REN21 network stands at 800 renewable energy, energy access and energy efficiency experts. For GSR 2016, 180 experts joined the report process, equivalent to the total number of GSR experts in 2012.

These experts engage in the GSR process, giving their time, contributing data and providing comment in the peer review process. The result of this collaboration is an annual publication that has established itself as the world's most frequently referenced report on the global renewable energy market, industry and policy landscape.

16,000

newsletter subscribers

2,050

reviewers

800

topical contributors

650

country contributors

330

technology contributors

"This was a really good webinar, probably the best of the half-dozen or so I've joined this past year. The presenters were consistently articulate, it went smoothly, the technology worked well. Kudos to both the CESC webinar staff and all the presenters."

General attendee

"The ongoing partnership between REN21 and the Clean Energy Solutions Center is highly beneficial to our members. The partnership allows us to disseminate the key findings of the annual Global Status Report to our members and clean energy stakeholders in a timely fashion. The information in the GSR is used directly by many of the Solutions Center's members and providing them the opportunity to learn from and ask questions of some of its authors during our webinars is a great resource to be able to offer. We also appreciate REN21's ability and willingness to cater to our international audience."

Sean Esterly

Project Lead, Clean Energy Solutions Center

"Just a quick note to say I thoroughly enjoyed the webinar. The presentations were succinct, relevant and full of practical information that I've already shared with my team. Thanks for organizing. I look forward to similar such events."

Attendee - representing EarthSpark International

"So happy to be with you again on this new adventure [on developing the Renewables 100% Global Futures Report]. It is always a give-and-take-exercise for me. I think I learn more than I share."

Sena Alouka

Executive Director, NGO-Young Volunteers for the Environment (Togo)

Networks and Outreach Efforts

SPREADING THE WORD

2016 saw the REN21 Secretariat diversifying its outreach activities around the release of the *Renewables 2016 Global Status Report*. This year's launch included the production of a **two-minute video** that summarised the highlights of the report. In parallel, particular attention was paid to presenting text and figures that highlighted regional and national developments and ensuring that main messages were translated into key languages. Time was spent cultivating interest among national and regional media outlets. **Regional fact sheets** were prepared and translated into the dominant regional language around the report's release; this was in addition to the eleven translated versions of the press release. Increased attention was paid to spreading of key data and information through multiple language versions of the Key Findings (the Executive Summary of the GSR 2016). By year's end the Key Findings were available in eight languages: Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

REN21 also released a **GSR microsite**. The microsite allows the user to access the full report online; all references are available and linked. No download is necessary! The text can be directly translated from English into the user's language by the web browser, allowing a greater number of people to consult the information. While designed for users with low or poor connectivity, the site is now regularly used by a wide range of people from across the world.

Over the course of 2016 REN21 carried out a diverse range of additional outreach activities to raise awareness of REN21 products and services. **Four newsletters** detailing the activities of the Secretariat and the REN21 network were produced. REN21's newsletter readership continued to steadily increase in 2016 and by end-2016 subscriptions totaled more than 16,000.

The Secretariat continued to complement REN21's outreach efforts with regular posting on Twitter and LinkedIn. The REN21 website remains a central part of these efforts as well as acting as an electronic archive. By the end of 2016 visits to the REN21 website increased over 2015 numbers with more than **286,600 individual users** and over **607,000 page views**. Pages that were consulted the most continue to be the Global Futures Report and the Global Status Report pages with an increasing number of users consulting the regional status report page.

REN21 continued to receive support from Google to promote its activities on-line in the form of USD 120,000 free advertising. Over the course of the year REN21 ads have been shown approximately 266,186 times. The active promotion of REN21 products via the Google ad words has led to a 17,784 visitor increase on the REN21 website over 2015 numbers. The success rate for **Google ads** also determines continued support. REN21 has received the equivalent of USD 360,000 of Google support over the past three years.



"The GSR microsite is really useful: you can search and select topics that you are specifically interested in and browsing becomes a discovery trip rather than a 'I-have-got-to-read-the-full-massive-tome' duty. Of course you can still download the full report, its infographics and references, but I find the new version more fun. Thank you and keep it going, REN21!"

Martin Hiller
Director General, REEEP

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

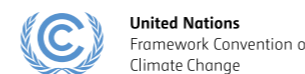
REN21 leverages its work by forming strategic partnerships. REN21's partnership with each of the organisations listed below brings a different area of expertise to the renewable energy debate. The result is a broad network of experts that expands beyond the traditional renewable energy community.



UNIDO and REN21 agreed to cooperate on developing another flagship publication in anticipation of newly created UNIDO regional centers for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the East Africa (EAC) region. The co-operation builds on the work and success of the *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*.



REN21 continued to contribute to IRENA's Coalition for Action—a multi-stakeholder network—in 2016. The Coalition is comprised of organisations from around the world that share the common aim of supporting the deployment of renewable energy worldwide for realising a sustainable future. IRENA also contributes to the Global Status Report process by preparing the section on jobs and costs.



In 2016 REN21 maintained its observer status with the UNFCCC and participated in a number of activities at COP22.



REN21 and UN Environment (UNEP) continued its close collaboration. UNEP supports the REN21 Secretariat by providing space and logistical support. REN21 contributed to the 1 Gigaton Coalition by collecting data on the status of energy efficiency in 102 non-Annex 1 countries and 4 BRICs (excluding Russia); up from 86 the previous year. The resulting publication reports on GHG emission reductions resulting from renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives and programmes that are not accounted for in the UN Environment Emission Gap Report. The report was launched 3 November, 2016 in conjunction with the Emission Gap's Report. REN21 is also an accredited observer to UN Environment.



REN21 strengthened its collaboration with the IEA on data exchange to ensure consistency between the IEA's *Medium-Term Renewable Energy Market Report 2016* and the *REN21 Renewables 2016 Global Status Report*. REN21 remains a member of the IEA's Renewable Energy Industry Advisory Board (RIAB) and participated in its meetings.



REN21 continued to contribute to SEforALL, including contributing to the 2017 edition of the SEforALL Tracking Framework. The SEforALL Africa Hub participated in the review of the *EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*. It was also the regional institution for Africa region work on the *Renewable 100% Global Futures Report*.



REN21 collaborated with the Inter-American Development Bank for the first time in 2016. IDB provided funding for the GSR microsite as part of its work to increase information on the status of renewables in the region. The Bank also financially supported the translation of the Key Findings into Portuguese, thereby extending GSR coverage to lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) countries.



REN21 collaborated with the World Bank on its Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE). The REN21 Secretariat wrote the chapter on Clean Energy and Energy Access for the Status of Energy Access (SEAR) report. Over the course of the year, the Secretariat also worked with the World Bank to produce renewable energy metrics for energy access household surveys. The Bank also contributed funding to the production of the GSR microsite.

Additional partnerships were formed with the Global Off-grid Lighting Association, (GOGLA), the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC) and Power for All. REN21 also collaborated with SLoCaT. Underlying each one of these partnership was the aim to move beyond the renewable energy community in order to facilitate the global energy transition.

WELCOME! The REN21 "family" is growing. Seven new members joined REN21 over the course of 2016:

- Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APERC)
- Association for Renewable Energy of Lusophone Countries (ALER)
- Climate Action Network (CAN)
- Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
- Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC)
- Global Off-grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)
- Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)

CATALYSING DISCUSSION AND DEBATE:
REN21 cooperated with other organisations to host debates focused on a global renewable energy transition

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Over the course of 2016 REN21 staff presented the status of renewables and identified new experts to complement the contributors’ network. REN21 staff participated around the world in more than 20 high-level events, engaging with a wide variety of participants on the status of renewables and the role of policy in ensuring renewable uptake. Over 55 presentations were given highlighting key findings of different REN21 reports and included new outreach opportunities in Algeria, Botswana, Ecuador, Georgia, Japan, Korea, and the Ukraine, allowing REN21 to highlight the central role of data collection for good decision-making. Leading panel discussions in Barbados, Germany, Kenya, Netherlands, Sweden and the USA served to place renewables and energy efficiency as twin pillars of a robust energy policy. The hosting of events at the 7th Clean Energy Ministerial and at COP22 provided additional opportunities to highlight the central role of renewables in increasing energy access and renewables to facilitate a rapid implementation of the Paris Agreement.

REN21
Accounts

Grants in 2015 were secured from the German and South African governments, UNIDO, AEE INTEC, OFID, SANEDI, and UN Environment (UNEP).

	2014	2015	
NON-PROFIT BUSINESS			
Non-taxable income			
1. Membership fees	0	0	
2. Grants	1,144,983.62	1,529,351.48	1,529,351.48
Non-taxable expenses			
1. In-house consultants (within the Secretariat)	261,682.06	297,650.00	
2. Wages and Salaries	185,592.29	192,822.65	
3. Travel expenses	59,069.08	129,352.85	
4. Miscellaneous other expenses			
Consulting Costs	465,767.33	750,003.02	
Costs for events	80,798.20	0	
Advertising and printing costs	46,823.13	44,653.46	
Legal and tax consulting fees	11,214.50	15,784.00	
Office supplies and telephone	6,102.49	9,800.56	
Contributions and insurance	2,584.39	3,267.14	
Incidental monetary transaction costs	1,940.41	1,857.75	
Other expenses	14,297.06	59,767.47	1,504,958.90
Profit/loss	9,112.68		24,392.55
Fund management			
Tax-free income	1.39	0.40	
Organizations profit			
Allocation of reserves for use in following year	-9,114.07		- 24,392.95
Profit/loss carried forward	0.00		0.00

REN21
Future Outlook

2017 PERSPECTIVE

REN21’s work in 2017 will reflect the rapidly changing landscape in the renewables field. Activities in 2017 will focus on:

- Enlarging the REN21 network to become the multi-stakeholder coalition for the energy transition with renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Carrying out strategic interaction with all key players of the global energy architecture
- Supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement
- Developing sub-national level activities including cross-cutting issues such as heating and cooling, transport in regions and cities

REN21 will also organise debates around the topic of 100% renewables, drawing from the results in its new report *Renewables 100% Global Futures Report*. The highpoint of the year will be the **Mexico International Renewable Energy Conference (MEXIREC)**, held 11-13 September, 2017. MEXIREC will provide Mexico and the region the opportunity to showcase its rapidly growing renewable energy sector.

In its continuing efforts to improve the *Renewables Global Status Report* and to reflect the evolution of the sector, the GSR 2017 will contain a new chapter looking at **enabling and cross-cutting technologies**, e.g. heat pumps, electric vehicles, storage, and smart technology. Each of these technologies is currently used in conjunction with renewable energy and/or offers many opportunities and synergies. They will be increasingly part of an integrated system. It is important to track trends in this sector so that the synergies can be made and targeted policies and business models developed, ultimately increasing the share of renewable energy. This chapter will—like the rest of the GSR—focus on the current global status of the technologies.

The topic of the upcoming Feature will be on **debunking the myths of baseload power**. This myth still persists widely despite ample evidence that this is not needed for grid stability. Other additions to the report include a sidebar on intersection of energy efficiency and energy access. Data on what is really happening in the mini-grid market will be included in the distributed renewables chapter.

REN21 will continue advance its work with all key players of the global energy architecture to strengthen synergies and to convey coordinated key messages to foster global renewable energy uptake.



REN21's strength comes from its multi-stakeholder network of experts that is geographically diverse and represents a wide variety of sectors. If you are interested in being a part of this network and are committed to advancing the energy transition with renewable energy and energy efficiency, contact us and/or subscribe to the REN21 newsletter: secretariat@ren21.net.

You can also follow us on Twitter at @REN21.

REN21
c/o UN Environment
Economy Division
1, rue Miollis
Building VII
F – 75015 Paris
France

secretariat@ren21.net

www.ren21.net



**CONNECTING
THE DOTS:
CONVENING MULTI-
STAKEHOLDERS ON
RENEWABLE
ENERGY**