

SCALING UP RENEWABLE ENERGY ON ISLANDS

Islands across the globe are rich in renewable energy. Small island developing states (SIDS) can meet most, if not all, of their domestic energy needs through a combination of renewable sources.

Now more than ever, falling technology costs offer a unique opportunity to speed the transition of island energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables.

Such a switch is proven to decrease electricity costs, expand energy access, create jobs and boost energy security. But the pace of development is still too slow. Accordingly, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is engaged in various initiatives to help islands achieve a more sustainable energy future.

SIDS LIGHTHOUSES INITIATIVE

The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, launched at the 2014 Climate Summit, provides a global framework for the energy transition on islands. It aims to:

- » Mobilise USD 500 million
- » Deploy 100 MW of new solar PV
- » Deploy 20 MW of new wind power
- » Deploy significant quantities of small hydropower and geothermal energy and a number of marine technology projects
- » Ensure all participating SIDS develop renewable energy roadmaps

The initiative facilitates coordinated support for islands to transform their predominantly fossil-based power systems to renewable energy through partnerships with public, private, intergovernmental, and non-governmental stakeholder organisations. SIDS partners in the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea regions gain access to:

- » Policy and regulatory advisory services
- » Technical expertise in planning, identifying, structuring and executing projects
- » Financing for capacity building, policy and regulatory design, early-stage transactions, and project finance
- » A network to share information, knowledge and practices



GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY ISLANDS NETWORK

The Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN) aims to help islands, donors and other partners share knowledge and seek innovative solutions to accelerate renewable energy deployment.

GREIN thematic “interest clusters” facilitate discussion on six main themes:

- » Roadmaps for Deployment, strategies to expand renewables for power, transport and building uses
- » Best practices and cost-effective technology pairings for water desalination with renewables
- » Power-grid studies and options based on each island’s resources and grid development
- » Best practices for the conversion of waste to energy for islands of different sizes
- » Data on wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower resource potential through IRENA’s *Global Atlas for Renewable Energy*
- » Regional and national partnerships with hotels and tourism authorities, in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), to promote investment in renewables

Participants can share information and best practices continuously through IRENA’s *REsource* web platform (www.irena.org/resource).

FAR-REACHING PARTICIPATION

Nearly 40 IRENA members have expressed interest in one or more GREIN clusters. These countries and territories include Antigua, Australia, Cabo Verde, Comoros, the Cook Islands (NZ), Cyprus, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Iran, Jamaica, Madagascar, the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Martinique (France), Mauritius, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niue (NZ), Palau, the Seychelles, the Solomon Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Thailand, Tonga, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Yemen.

For more information, e-mail: info@irena.org

ABOUT IRENA

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organisation that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international co-operation, a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy. IRENA promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, including bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy, in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity.

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