

Leaders for Decentralised Renewable Energy

To speed up the uptake of decentralised renewable energy (DRE), the Brooklyn Coalition is leading frontrunner solutions for achieving universal energy access. The Coalition is comprised the governments of the Netherlands, Kenya and Nepal, private sector companies Selco and Schneider Electric, and CSOs Hivos, ENERGIA and SNV.

We are committed to ensure that social and economic development includes communities with the greatest energy needs and want to share our **best practices** from the field.

FINANCE

Currently, the main problem is not a lack of finance, but how finance flows: mainly to on-grid in higher income countries, while the greatest need is for off-grid in lower income areas.

Local financing systems and Results Based Finance (RBF)

Selco has been successful in providing financial support to people without access. By tapping into local financing systems and champion banks offering consumer financing for solar products, Selco's approach is tailored to the financial reality of the end-user.

In **Kenya**, great advancement in the solar PV industry is grounded in a growing number of flexible payment systems such as PAYG and progressive business models with personalised repayment mechanisms.

The business risk associated with new off-grid markets, players and techniques is counter-balanced by RBF which provides financial incentives to deliver energy services in underserved communities. Implemented successfully by the **Kenyan** government and by **SNV** and **EnDev** in several countries, RBF is based on achievements of pre-agreed milestones and offers room for companies to try different business models until the market has matured.

Creating business models

Countering the challenges of maintaining renewable energy systems in remote areas, **Hivos** set up a Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) under the Sumba Iconic Island project, developed and applied to avoid bumps in the road to sustained community-based energy.

Acknowledging the crucial role of women in achieving universal energy access, **ENERGIA** runs the Women's Economic Empowerment Programme (WE), supporting micro- and small-scale women energy entrepreneurs in all aspects of operating a successful energy business.

Nepal's government is stimulating private sector investment by auctioning off micro-utility projects in energy demand areas. With the "Best Available Technology" (BAT) model, the micro-utility is suited for the particular community, using tariffs adjusted to local income levels.

DESIGN

suitable financial systems

KNOW

where the money goes:
Transparency and impact

PUBLIC

money should address
the poor and remote

LINK

international institutes
with local companies

WOMEN

should be able to
influence decisions

COMBINE

public and private money
for remote energy access

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DEVELOP

policy supporting off-grid and integrates on-grid and off-grid solutions

ENSURE

quality availability and regulation of products

INNOVATE

with consumers at the centre

CONNECT

different stakeholders, technologies and funding for effectiveness and impact

INCLUDE

courses on renewables in schools and universities

SUPPORT

young and local potential energy leaders

POLICY

In order to develop enabling policies, it is key to set energy access targets. In our experience, clear ambitions for universal energy access help in reaching your goals.

Mixing on-and off-grid solutions

Both **Kenya** and **Nepal** are strong in the RISE index of the World Bank with their supportive policies for energy access and renewables.

Both countries have made strong advancements in combining DRE with extensions of the main grid. Introducing supportive policy and finance, they have ambitious goals of reaching energy access for all.

Regulations & quality standards

In order to maintain high standards for products and services in the energy sector, the government of **Kenya** has successfully established regulation and consumer reporting mechanisms alongside the removal of taxes to stimulate the uptake of DRE.

In cooperation with **Hivos**, the Kenyan Bureau of Standard (KEBS) developed **Kenya's** first ever biogas standards and quality control measures, which has made more people adopt biogas.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER & INNOVATION

Cross-sector cooperation is crucial to advance the uptake of DRE. The Brooklyn Coalition does exactly that as a true multi-stakeholder group, pushing for progress in the energy domain.

Multi-actor approaches

With the goal of providing energy access to at least 50 million people by 2030, the **Dutch** government engages in several multi-stakeholder initiatives, including EnDev and also the Sumba Iconic Island project, which was initiated by **Hivos**. The project gathers a range of donors, national and local governments, private sector, electricity companies, journalists and community-based organisations.

EnDev was initiated by **The Netherlands** and Germany and is the biggest bottom-up programme for energy access, together with implementing organisations such as **Hivos** and **SNV**.

Technical training and innovation

Reacting to the challenge of insufficient technical support, **Schneider Electric** provides vocational and entrepreneur trainings through local partners to support the development of skills and entrepreneurship.

The **Hivos-IIED** Energy Change Lab supports innovation in community and consumer use of energy, through a 'swarm grid' that supports production, use and sale of electricity generated via solar PV/ Solar Home Systems.