



## GREEN & INCLUSIVE ENERGY A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Energy investment decisions being taken now will determine to a large extent the potential to manage human development, urbanization, and climate change until the end of the century. Will we continue the historic trend of fossil fuel based energy, servicing only the cities? Or will we choose green and inclusive energy systems, to the benefit of all?

### CHANGING ENERGY SYSTEMS

Energy is key to human development. We need energy for our daily activities, our education, our health and to earn a living. However, more than a billion people do not have access to reliable, affordable and clean energy. What we produce, is not distributed evenly. Nor is it produced in a sustainable manner. The extraction of fossil fuels is a key driver of climate change and leads to instability and pollution across the world. This is why we need to shift towards decentralised renewable energy, benefiting those now left behind without harming the planet.

Examples of decentralised renewable energy solutions are hydropower, clean cook stoves, solar panels, windmills and biogas digesters. For those now 'off grid' these solutions can change lives. Considerable improvements in family health, productivity and social safety can be expected by introducing them in areas now reliant on coal, firewood or diesel.

### A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

To push the transition towards green and inclusive energy systems, Hivos, ENERGIA, IIED and national civil society organisations have partnered with the Dutch government. In a five-year advocacy and lobby programme, kicked off in 2016, we aim to influence energy policies and practices. We do this by designing influencing strategies [or theory of change] with national civil society organisations and combining and strengthening our joint effort in effective lobby and advocacy strategies for green & inclusive energy systems.

### About Hivos

Hivos is an international organisation that seeks new solutions to persistent global issues. With smart projects in the right places, we oppose discrimination, inequality, abuse of power and the unsustainable use of our planet's resources. Hivos works towards a green society that has no expiry date. A society powered by renewable energy, where everyone has sufficient, nutritious and affordable food.

We aim for strong civil organisations, active in Indonesia, Nepal, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Nicaragua and Guatemala that are critical and knowledgeable voices in national and international debates and policy development.

## THE AGENDA FOR GREEN INCLUSIVE ENERGY

In order to break the trend of fossil fuel based energy and choose green and inclusive energy systems to the benefit of all, everybody has a part to play.

International organisations such as the Multilateral Development Banks, the Green Climate Fund and OECD countries including the European Union should allocate a significantly larger budget to green and inclusive energy solutions. In addition, these institutions should invest in strong implementation and adequate reporting so that progress can be measured around the energy related Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainable Energy for all (SE4ALL) goals, including gender.

National governments should adopt and implement policies to make energy systems more green and inclusive. In doing so, they should display increased transparency and accountability. Furthermore, governments should increase investments in domestic renewable energy and reform detrimental fossil fuel subsidies. In addition, they should create a supportive investment climate for private sector development.

Both international and national institutions should open up the room for civil society organisation representation, including women's groups. Their participation should be on a serious and equal footing. Civil society organisations must in return use the space created. A strong agenda for green and inclusive energy systems needs to be developed to be able to act as legitimate and knowledgeable advocates for people's energy needs at the international level.

Furthermore, civil society organisations should establish a cooperation model at the international level that enables effective lobby cooperation and representation of national and local partners.

## CONTACT

Are you interested in helping us achieve these goals or do you want more information about our work?

Please contact our Programme Manager Eco Matser at [ematser@hivos.org](mailto:ematser@hivos.org)

## Investing in women

Women and men are affected differently by energy access or a lack thereof. Although energy policies and programmes that explicitly address this issue and involve women in decision making, planning and implementation have better outcomes and improve the livelihood of entire communities, gender issues are generally not taken into account. Green and inclusive energy creates space for both men and women and specifically increases opportunities for women that will allow them greater and more productive participation in politics, society and the economy.