

#PoweringJobs

Energy Access at Work

Solving energy poverty is about human capital. Affordable, distributed renewable energy (DRE) solutions already exist to provide clean, reliable electricity to at least three-quarters of the 1 billion people who lack it. But there aren't enough entrepreneurs or trained workers to deliver these solutions.

Despite growing demand for home solar, mini-grids and productive use appliances across Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, there is a widening shortage of job-ready workers who can develop, install, operate and service distributed solutions for homes and businesses. Closing this gap—with skills and jobs training at the center of global energy access efforts—will determine our success or failure in deploying distributed solutions at the levels that are needed. We cannot achieve energy for all without a labor force to support it.

#PoweringJobs is a global effort to galvanize such a transformation. It puts energy access jobs at the center—not the side-line—of international and national development policies. It aims to strengthen donor, government and private sector commitments to realize these jobs and deliver Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).

Through education and training, a new energy workforce—including engineers and technicians, utility staff, finance and banking professionals, manufacturers and entrepreneurs—will be able to remove a key barrier hindering “last mile” delivery of electricity and faster adoption of distributed power. This mobilization will also kickstart job creation in energy-poor countries. The off-grid value chain alone, including sales, marketing, installation and services, could create at least 4.5 million jobs globally by 2030, according to IRENA, thus playing a significant role in also achieving SDG4 (Quality Education) and SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).



WE NEED SKILLS IN CLEAN, DISTRIBUTED ENERGY TO EMPLOY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING WOMEN AND YOUTH, AND END ENERGY POVERTY.



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Closing the Skills Gap

Despite the enormous employment and livelihood opportunities of SDG7, there has yet to be a coordinated global effort to develop workforce programs country-by-country to meet the needs of the rapidly growing distributed renewables market. Alarming, the vast majority of global renewable energy jobs (mostly from large, utility-scale solar and wind projects) are outside of low energy access countries. For example, less than 1 percent are in Sub-Saharan African countries (excluding South Africa), home to more than 600 million people without electricity.

To change this paradigm, fostering creative, empowered, educated entrepreneurs and workers must be prioritized. The global community and national governments must develop awareness, interest and support for the distributed renewable energy sector, along with technical and vocational education and training (TVET), to create the workforce needed to achieve SDG7. The #PoweringJobs campaign seeks to close this critical gap.



Surveying the Opportunity

Substantive research about energy access as a job creator is limited. Yet, there is strong anecdotal evidence that the skilled talent needed to achieve SDG7 is in high demand, but short supply. The mismatch between ongoing skills training efforts and demonstrated sectoral needs is an oft-cited barrier to growth.

The #PoweringJobs campaign will develop the sector's first comprehensive jobs survey, demonstrating the link between achieving universal access and creating jobs by deploying distributed renewables. The annual jobs survey will provide credible, data-driven evidence that policymakers can act on. It will identify potential income from jobs being created (direct, indirect, induced, full time, and part time), diversity of the workforce, and gaps in talent pipelines. The survey will focus first on Kenya, Nigeria and India, and will expand in the future to include all energy-poor countries.



Campaign Goals

Jobs are worthless if a skilled workforce doesn't exist to fill them. The #PoweringJobs campaign will help catalyze a next generation energy workforce by promoting:

- » **Awareness** of the vast opportunity to create new jobs and positive economic impact by meeting the energy access employment needs of private and public sector stakeholders.
- » **Behavior Change** among funders and governments, as well as academic, training and private sector institutions that recognizes workforce training as a benefit, not a cost.
- » **Market Activation** through increased financial, policy and programmatic support to develop new, equitable, diverse, and inclusive training and employment opportunities.

Join Us in Putting SDG7 to Work

By partnering with the #PoweringJobs campaign, your organization can:

- » Contribute to the annual distributed renewable energy #PoweringJobs survey, creating critical data in support of the sector.
- » Support communications and outreach that informs decision-makers in government, funding agencies, education and training institutions, and private sector companies.
- » Empower local organizations working to promote good jobs and decent work, a critical path to a just energy transition.
- » Ensure the private and public sectors have skilled, diverse talent to scale energy access solutions.

Visit powerforall.org/poweringjobs for more details and to get involved. Or email poweringjobs@powerforall.org.

About the Campaign

The #PoweringJobs coalition is made up of leading multilateral organizations, educational and training institutions, large and small companies, civil society groups and others. For a full list of partners, visit the [#PoweringJobs webpage](#). The campaign is made possible with the support of the Schneider Electric Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation.



Created in 1998 under the aegis of the Fondation de France, the Schneider Electric Foundation is committed to projects that emphasize sustainable and practical training and integration of young people, primarily for energy related careers, education for sustainable development through innovative projects and support for emergency operations following natural disasters.



The Rockefeller Foundation's mission—unchanged since 1913—is to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world. Together with partners and grantees, The Rockefeller Foundation strives to catalyze and scale transformative innovations, create unlikely partnerships that span sectors, and take risks others cannot.

POWER TO ALL

Power for All is a global coalition of more than 200 organizations campaigning to accelerate the deployment of distributed renewable energy as the fastest, least cost, and most resilient solution for ending energy poverty.



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