



WRI INDIA



SustainX - ACE 2025 & 4th CO2India Meet

21-24 June 2025

IIT Madras | Chennai



Agenda

Venue: TTJ Auditorium, IIT Madras, Chennai

Google location: <https://g.co/kgs/BHLzNcJ>

Day 1: June 23, 2025	
Time	Session
9:00 AM– 9:10 AM	Opening Remarks Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India
9:10 AM – 9:50 AM	Plenary Address Dr Raghunathan Rengaswamy, Dean, IIT Madras
9:50 AM –10:15 AM	Keynote Address Dr Tapas Majhi, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research Bangalore
10:15 AM-10:30 AM	Special Address V Arun Roy, IAS, Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
10:30 AM – 10:40 AM	Announcement of students' award Dr Sweta Raghavan, Royal Society of Chemistry

10:40 AM – 11:00 AM	Tea Break
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	<p>Session: Strengthening India's Distribution Network: Use Cases for Battery Energy Storage Systems</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Prashant M Wadnere, IAS, Special Secretary, Finance, Govt. of Tamil Nadu</p> <p>Special Address: J K Jethani, Scientist, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context Setting: Bhagyasree, Energy Advisor, GIZ India <p>Panel Discussion: Energy Storage in Focus: Opportunities, Barriers, and the Road to Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KVS Baba, Retd. CMD, POSOCO/Grid-India • Richie Stephen, Senior Standards Project Manager, UL Standards & Engagement • Neehar Jathar, Co-founder, AmpereHour Energy • Nirmal Shaju, Manager – Scalable Solutions, GEAPP • Avinash Kumar, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited • Bhagyasree, Energy Advisor, GIZ India • Deepak Krishnan, Deputy Director, Energy, WRI India (Moderator)
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	<p>Session: Circular by Design: Rethinking Value Chains Through Systems Innovation</p> <p>Context Setting: Rushabh Soni, Senior Program Associate, WRI India</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Common Threads in Solar, Wind, and Battery Technologies for a Circular Renewable Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akanksha Tyagi, Program Lead, Council for Energy, Environment and Water • Nandini Chaudhury, Managing Director, Head of APAC advisory, CrossBoundary Group • Nishtha Gupta, Group Head – Sustainability & ESG, Suzlon • Dr Nikhil Tambe, CEO, The Energy Consortium, IIT Madras • Kavita Sachwani, Principles for Responsible Banking, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative • Rushabh Soni, Senior Program Associate, WRI India (Moderator) <p>Fireside Chat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sujoy Ghosh, Vice President & Country Managing Director India, First Solar • Pamli Dekka, Program Head, Energy Transition Finance, WRI India
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Tea Break

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	<p>Session: Climate Smart Villages</p> <p>Context Setting: Vivek Venkataramani, Associate Program Director, WRI India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S Hemalatha, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Ramanathapuram* • Jyotirmoy Sircar, Business Head, Sandhya Strategic Investment and Advisory, Expert on Waste Management • Dr P Uma Maheswari, Livelihood Expert and Startup Enabler • Lanvin Concessao, Program Manager, WRI India • Anjana Rajagopalan, Program Manager, WRI India (Moderator)
-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Day 2: June 24, 2025	
Time	Session
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	<p>Opening Remarks – Vikram Kapur, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary; Director, Anna Administrative Staff College and Director General of Training, Govt. of Tamil Nadu</p> <p>Report Launch: How cities can support India's Clean Energy Transition – Studying India's Clean Energy Transition Through its Cities</p> <p>Fireside Chat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vikram Kapur, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary; Director, Anna Administrative Staff College and Director General of Training, Govt. of Tamil Nadu • Pushyamitra Bhargava, Mayor Indore Municipal Corporation* • Sumedha Malaviya, Program Head, Building Decarbonization, WRI India
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<p>Session: Industrial Decarbonization</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Alternative Fuels for Hard-to-Abate Sectors with a focus on Municipal Solid Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devika Wattal, Global Cement and Concrete Association • Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Vice President, PH1 Industry • Neelima Aalam, Senior Scientist, Department of Science & Technology • Dipika Shripad, National Project Coordinator, UNIDO • Gowthami T S, Program Manager, WRI India (Moderator) <p>Tea Break [11:15 to 11:30]</p>

	<p>Panel Discussion: Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Decarbonization with a focus on Common Boilers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suresh Babu, MSME Development and Facilitation Office • C V Ramanan, General Manager & Head - Enterprise Sales & Corporate Field Services, Thermax Ltd. • T Mathevan Pillai, General Manager, Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Ltd (F), Present: Associate Professor, Hindustan Institute of Technology, Chennai • Dr Satyanarayan Seshadri, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai • K S Chandershekar, Deputy General Manager, Small Industries Development Bank of India • Abhishek Bharadwaj, Senior Program Associate, WRI India (Moderator)
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	<p>Session: Cooling for All: Access to Sustainable Cooling Solutions for the Urban Poor</p> <p>Keynote Address: Dr Krishna S Vatsa, Member, National Disaster Management Authority Special Address: Sudha Ramen, IFS, Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu</p> <p>Context Setting: Deepak Tewari, Research Fellow, WRI India</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. R Harikumar, Director, Energy Management Centre, Kerala • Suhasini Ayer-Guigan, Principal architect - Auroville Design Consultants - CSR, Auroville Consulting • Vivek Gilani, Managing Director & Executive Board Member Director, cBalance • Rahul Agnihotri, Advisor for Clean Cooling Solutions and Building Energy Efficiency, UN Environment Programme. • Samhita M, Founder and Managing Director, Ela Green Buildings & Infrastructure Consultants • Dr. Priya Narayanan, Senior Program Manager, WRI India • Varun Pujari, Senior Specialist, Marketing Systems and Entrepreneurship, Habitat for Humanity International • Sumedha Malaviya, Program Head, Building Decarbonization, WRI India (Moderator)
3:30 PM Onwards	Tea/Coffee

*TBC