WRI INDIA

ace

Accelerating Clean Energy in India

18-19 OCTOBER 2022
10:00 AM - 05:30 PM

Shangri-La Eros, New Delhi

Accelerating Clean Energy, or ACE, is WRI India's annual event where fresh insights into ongoing and emerging research streams on global energy transitions, and their implications on India, are presented and discussed. ACE is convening amidst fears that pockets of Western Europe might face energy poverty this winter for the first time since the Second World War, accelerating efforts to mainstream non-fossil fuel-based energy globally.

In its third edition after a break during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, we at WRI India, are looking forward to these discussions, to ensure India achieves its ambitious goals of carbon neutrality by 2070 and nearer term targets on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development Goals.

Click here for registration & event details: https://wri-india.org/events/accelerating-clean-energy-india

Scroll down to see the agenda

DRAFT AGENDA

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 18TH OCTOBER 2022

TIME	SESSIONS
10:00-10:30	***Registration and Tea***
10:30-11:30	**Inaugural Session: Energy Transitions in India: *Enablers and Arenas*** While India's per capita energy consumption is far lower than the world's richer nations, its fast-developing economy is expected to consume energy at levels not witnessed in the recent past. While the burden to reduce per capita consumption indeed rests on developed countries, India has an opportunity to ensure the growth that it is already witnessing attempts a conscious trajectory that includes more renewable energy. India is endowed with multiple renewable resources, but harnessing them responsibly, equitably, and cost-effectively has been a challenge. Some of these issues are not unique to India, though some are rooted in the country's approach to the energy sector, the resultant policies, financing models, and the economies that these policies spurned. India has also displayed considerable stewardship, for instance, in the solar sector, evidenced by ambitious national targets, and leadership at the International Solar Alliance. The inaugural session of ACE2022 will set the stage to address India's challenges to transition to a high renewables-based economy, setting it within a global context, and examine trajectories that could scale this transition. **Welcome and Introduction:** **Bharath Jairaj,** Executive Director, Energy, WRI India **Keynote Address:** **Vandana Kumar,** IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India **Special Address: Jarnail Singh,** Director, MacArthur Foundation India **Vote of thanks: Tirthankar Mandal,** Head – Energy Policy, WRI India
11:10-11:30	***Tea***
11:30-13:00	**Elements of Energy Transitions Session 1: *Offshore wind in India: challenges and strengths*** For some time now, we have known that the waters off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have the potential to harness about 70 GW of offshore wind energy, and yet there are no projects that have been able to utilise this resource. WRI India and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) have studied some of the reasons for this gap. We published our findings recently, which outlines the challenges and enablers based on extant policies; stakeholder consultations; the current state of domestic manufacturing capacity and available technologies; and the possibility to bring about economies of scale, to make offshore wind energy cheaper to produce and to supply. In this session, we will present the paper's findings. **Presentation by** **Vaisakh Kumar,** Project Associate, Energy, WRI India **Panel Discussion** **Moderator: Kajol,** Senior Manager, Energy, WRI India **Speakers:** • ***Rebecca Williams,*** *Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)** • **Poonam Sandhu,** Financial Sector Specialist & India Head Consultant, Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC)

- **Raghauv G, Senior Manager - Investment Promotion,** Guidance Tamil Nadu, Government of Tamil Nadu

13:00-14:00 ***Lunch***

14:00-15:30 **Elements of Energy Transitions Session 2: *Role of State RE agencies in India's energy transition***

State Renewable Energy Development Agencies were established several years ago, when nascent renewable energy (RE) technologies were being piloted across the country in diverse settings. Much has changed since, and the needs of the RE sector has rapidly evolved, requiring a shift in gear on state-support. This session will discuss how state RE agencies are serving the new and fast maturing renewables ecosystem in India.

Presentation by
Dr. Niharika Tagotra, Senior Research Specialist, Energy, WRI India

Panel Discussion
Moderator: Dr. Ashwini K Swain, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR)
Speakers:

- ***J.K. Jethani,*** *Scientist F, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India*
- **Narendra Nath Veluri,** IFS, CEO, Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (ANERT), Government of Kerala
- **D.S. Das,** Joint Director, Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA), Government of Tripura
- **Shweta Kulkarni,** Researcher, Prayas (Energy Group)

15:30-15:45 **Tea**

15:45-17:15 **Elements of Energy Transitions Session 3: *How do we scale energy transition in India's cities?***

India's buildings consumed about a third of all electricity produced in the country in the past year. And most of them were in India's burgeoning cities. Estimates suggest over half the infrastructure to accommodate India's growing economy is yet to be built, presenting an opportunity to scale their transition to clean energy – both renewables and energy efficiency. But the current pace at which the share of renewable energy and energy efficiency is increasing in Indian cities is insignificant. This session will address the challenges in city-level initiatives, as they align with achieving national targets. The session aims to discuss strategies to accelerate the pace of energy transition in cities.

Presentation by
Dhilon Subramanian, Manager, Energy Program, WRI India

Panel Discussion
Moderator: Dr. Archana Walia, India Director, Clean Air Asia
Speakers:

- **Dr. Binu Francis,** Secretary, Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram, Government of Kerala
- **Mili Majumdar,** Managing Director, Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI)
- **Dr. Umamaheshwaran Rajasekar**, Head, Climate Centre for Cities, & Chair, Urban Resilience Unit, National Institution of Urban Affairs (NIUA)
- **Deepak Tewari,** Research Fellow, Energy, WRI India

End of Day 1

DAY 2 – Wednesday, 19TH OCTOBER 2022

TIME	SESSIONS
10:00-11:30	**Enablers of Energy Transitions Session 1: *A Pathway to Deep Decarbonise Heavy Industries*** India's industrial sector is the second highest contributor to GHG emissions. It accounts for about a fifth of India's total GHG emissions, of which half are CO2 emissions from industrial processes. This session will discuss strategies to transition energy-intensive industries, to cleaner forms of energy. We examine carbon-neutrality policies in the industrial sector with examples from specific sectors and countries. **Presentation by** **Kajol,** Senior Manager, Energy, WRI India **Panel Discussion** **Moderator: Shirish Sinha,** Director – Climate, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) **Speakers:** • **Neha Verma,** Director, Ministry of Steel, Government of India • **Kaustabh Phadke,** General Manager & Country Head, Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) • **Dr. Saon Roy**, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) • **Shantanu Srivastava,** Energy Finance Analyst, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)
11:30-11:45	***Tea***
11:45-12:45	**Enablers of Energy Transitions Session 2: *Financing to enable Clean Energy transition in India*** Financing renewables and alternatives to fossil fuel has been a challenge, but enabling policies, green taxonomies, and central bank directives to financial entities are beginning to change lending practices globally. In India, expanding access to electricity into sectors like agriculture, fisheries and allied activities has received much attention, but financing these new technologies, broadly under the rubric of Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE), would require a multi-pronged approach of blending public and private financing. India's commitment to achieve 500 GW of renewables' installed capacity by 2030, would require investments of about Rs. 2.5 lakh crores annually. However, in the last financial year, India only saw Rs. 1.15 lakh crores (less than 50%). This session will identify the key challenges and opportunities that enable the flow of finance for clean energy transition, including the different types and scale of finance required – from financing productive use of DRE in rural India to financing the clean energy transition in industries and MSMEs. **Panel Discussion** **Moderator: Ashim Roy,** Lead – Energy Finance, WRI India **Speakers:** • **Dr. Madhu Verma,** Chief Economist, WRI India • **Jayant Prasad,** Executive Director, cKers Finance • **Anubha Prasad,** General Manager, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) • **Namita Vikas**, Founder & Managing Director, auctusESG LLP
12:45 – 14:00	***Lunch***

14:00-15:30	**Enablers of Energy Transitions Session 3*: Applying data to understand the impending change in energy demand from EVs on the electric grid*** Estimates suggest India would require about 400,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, up from a mere 1742 in less than five years if the country is to meet the charging demand from about two million EVs expected to hit Indian roads by 2026. But the country's power grids are under-equipped to meet this demand since there is no data or knowledge about how much demand would change by, and where. It is important that we gather better data, so that utilities can make better decisions on investing in EV charging infrastructure, and better managing the increased and changed demand. This session will attempt to comprehend the current EV environment in India and the sector's long-term objectives. We will hear perspectives from distribution utility representatives in India, and peers in other parts of the world on the research and a pilot programme attempted by the municipality of Utrecht, The Netherlands. WRI India's research that culminated with the production of a data-driven tool to assess real-time EV charging demand, will also be presented. **Panel Discussion** **Moderator: Sudhendu J Sinha,** Adviser (Infrastructure Connectivity – Transport and Electric Mobility), NITI Aayog, Government of India **Speakers:** • **Akshima Ghate** – Managing Director, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India • **Sunil Sharma,** Deputy General Manager – Sustainability & Cleantech, BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) • **Matthijs Kok,** Project Leader/Senior Policy Advisor, Electric Transport and Charging Infrastructure, Municipality of Utrecht, Netherlands • **Dr. Maria Xylia,** Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) • **Akansha Saklani,** Manager, Energy, WRI India
15:30 – 16:25	**Closing Plenary: Energy Transitions – What does the future hold?** The zeitgeist views transitioning to non-fossil fuel-based economies as indispensable to mitigate climate change, but it focuses largely on a techno-economic approach, not adequately factoring in socio-political and equity factors, and possibly, new forms of resource extraction and ecosystem exploitation. Could we envision an energy future in harmony with people and the planet? What must we do to get there? **Panel Discussion** **Moderator: Aarti Khosla,** Founder and Director, Climate Trends • **Divya Sharma,** India Executive Director, Climate Group • **Vidya Soundarajan,** Director Ecological Footprint, WWF- India • ***Arivudai Nambi,*** *Director, Climate Resilience Practise, WRI India**
16:25 – 16:30	**Vote of Thanks – Bharath Jairaj,** Executive Director, WRI India
16:30 – 17:30	**TEA**

**** To be Confirmed***

For further details, please contact us at IndiaEnergy@wri.org