

Expanded Clean Energy Solutions Center with Finance Portal

Summary

The Clean Energy Solutions Center, cleanenergysolutions.org, has had many successes in providing high-quality, fast response, no-cost clean energy policy assistance customized for individual government policymakers in over 80 countries – both within and outside of the CEM – through its “Ask an Expert” program. The purpose of the CEM6 focus on an Expanded Clean Energy Solutions Center with Finance Portal is to highlight that with additional human and financial resources, the Solutions Center can be dramatically expanded and improved to allow it to:

- Deliver 1,000 requests for expert assistance over five years to support policymakers in meeting their clean energy goals;
- Launch a dedicated portal on clean energy finance;
- Formally establish the Solutions Center as the “fast response” arm of the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), the technology mechanism under the UNFCCC; and
- Expand the roster of global experts, including to provide support to sub-national policymakers.

The Australian and U.S. governments have announced continued financial support for the Solutions Center. In addition, in-kind contributions have been announced, including support by Italy and France for engagement of policy experts from their countries on the Ask an Expert team.

Background

The Solutions Center is designed to meet the needs of the large number of countries that are looking to implement clean energy policies but that may have gaps in technical capacity, knowledge, and information. The Solutions Center meets these needs by providing:

- High-quality, no-cost, fast-response expert technical assistance that is uniquely tailored to government policy makers and government-affiliated practitioners through its Ask An Expert service;
- Training and webinars with a wide range of governments and partner organizations; and,
- A curated library of clean energy policy resources.

To date, the Solutions Center has supported over 80 countries through its Ask an Expert service, answering over 150 technical assistance requests. The Solutions Center has tapped leading global policy institutions to form a network of over 40 experts who provide fast-response advice and assistance that enables governments to strengthen policy design and implementation. For example:

- The *Solutions Center* provided assistance to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states in setting aggressive regional and national sustainable energy targets in their recently approved CARICOM energy policy. The policy includes renewable energy targets of 20 percent in 2017, 28 percent in 2022, and 47 percent in 2027.

- *The Solutions Center* provided assistance to South Africa, through the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), with the design of a regulation created to promote energy efficiency in the commercial building sector. The regulation was adopted under the South Africa Income Tax Act and was developed as part of the National Energy Efficiency Strategy to improve energy efficiency by 15 percent in the commercial building sector.

High-Level Targets and Goals for an Expanded Solutions Center

- **Provide expert assistance to 1,000 government policymakers over five years**, across countries in Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, and Asia to facilitate successful implementation of clean energy policies and programs.
- **Expand the global Ask an Expert roster** to create a broader network of global, national, and sub-national experts that offer assistance in multiple languages, including expanding resources and services for sub-national policy assistance.
- **Develop a new Finance Solutions Portal** for the Solutions Center to provide information and resources to facilitate access to and scale-up of finance. The Clean Energy *Finance* Solutions Center would help address one of the primary obstacles to the large-scale deployment of clean energy and energy-smart technologies and practices around the world – access to finance. It would bridge a widely identified gap by providing a centralized source of information on clean energy finance to policymakers, practitioners, and other key stakeholders to facilitate more holistic energy policy planning by including finance considerations.
- **Formally establish the Solutions Center as the “fast response” arm of the CTCN** to provide short turnaround expert assistance for clean energy policies, programs, and finance measures. Doing so would further extend the Solution Center’s reach and impact to policy makers around the world. We will also ensure our efforts are fully linked up and coordinated with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), to compliment and deepen the existing MOU between the Solutions Center and IRENA that provides joint expert assistance through the Renewable Policy Advisory Network (REPAN).
- **Strengthen the Solutions Center website** and the resources it presents, including offering a broad suite of policy reports and good practice summaries, tools, and data; building out a dedicated finance portal; and providing an umbrella portal for disseminating the tools and resources developed through all CEM initiatives.