

Energy news from Practical Action



Harnessing Energy for Poverty Reduction

www.gvep.org

The Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, in August 2002, to increase access to energy services, for those not served and underserved. GVEP is a 10-year implementation-based partnership bringing together developing and industrialized country governments, multilateral institutions, public and private organisations, NGOs and consumers, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Technical Secretariat of GVEP is responsible for day to day management of GVEP and is hosted by Practical Action (the new name for ITDG).

Mission

GVEP promotes development of the linkages between energy and poverty reduction strategies at national level, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at global level, through dynamic partnerships at national, regional and global levels.

Objectives

GVEP objectives are fourfold:

- To *catalyse* country commitments to energy for poverty reduction projects and programmes, and to guide policies and investment in this area.
- To *bridge* the gap between investors, entrepreneurs, and customers in the design, installation, and operation of replicable rural and peri-urban energy projects.
- To *serve* as a one-stop-shop for information, best practices, and lessons learned on the effective development and implementation of energy for poverty reduction projects and programmes.

Focus on GVEP

- To *create and maintain* an effective Global Village Energy Partnership organisational structure.

GVEP approach and expected outcomes

GVEP builds on existing experience and adds value to the work of individual partners. The GVEP approach is multi-sectoral (energy for health, education, agriculture, water, transport, telecommunications and productive uses/ enterprise sectors), multi-application (i.e. not just electric power), multi-stakeholder, technology neutral, and market based.

Expected outcomes for GVEP for the ten-year implementation period from 2002 to 2012, as agreed at the WSSD launch, are as follows:

- Over 30 countries with national energy-poverty programmes.
- Over 400 million extra people with access to energy services as a result of GVEP.
- Over 50,000 communities with energy services.
- A nucleus of trained professional entrepreneurs specialising in the delivery of energy services.
- Financing leveraged from multilateral, bilateral, and host country sources in support of energy access.
- Increases in productivity, income, environment, equity and quality of life via urban, rural, or peri-urban energy services, with measurable improvements in quality of life by those served.

GVEP partners and governance

GVEP has over 700 partners from around the world including representatives from developing and developed country governments, multilateral organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector, the financial community, and academia. Only half of the GVEP partners are from the energy sector, with the rest representing agriculture, education, environment, health, rural development, water, and other sectors.



Figure 1 GVEP support services

GVEP products and Services

GVEP's primary products relate to the development of country programmes which involve scaling up of investments in energy services targeted at the poor and unserved or underserved, and/or reorientation of existing programmes in ways that shift the emphasis from "energy for energy's sake" to deliberate targeting of strategic development sectors like education, health and agro-enterprise.

GVEP currently provides support services in four areas: Finance Facilitation, Capacity Development, Knowledge Management, and Results Monitoring and Evaluation (Figure 1).

A GVEP Action Programmes Fund (GAPfund) has been instituted to support small-scale projects aimed largely at demonstrating innovative approaches to scale-up.

Contact details

Further information on GVEP may be obtained from
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