

# Sustainable Energy for All: A Way Forward

We acknowledge the moral obligation to ensure fundamental Human Rights for all people. Because human life depends on adequate sources of energy to provide water, food, education, health care, communication, and appropriate employment, providing all people with adequate energy is therefore a moral and ethical obligation for all.

Alternate energy resources must be expanded if we are to sustain human life – indeed all life – on Earth and reduce the number of people living in poverty. However, such development must be carried out in harmony with Earth's natural boundaries, that is, acknowledging the limits of Earth's resources and the need to restore our damaged environment while developing new energy sources that are sustainably renewable, non-contaminating, affordable for those most in need, and accessible to all. Long-range planning is essential to accomplish this at local, national, and global levels.

*To this end, we believe that the following principles must be considered in creating energy, whether through current or yet undiscovered means:*

1. The primary purpose of sustainable energy development is to improve and sustain the lives of people while restoring and maintaining the health and balance of the planet for future generations. Therefore:

Profit must not take higher priority than these values.

Good governance at all levels; appropriate collaboration among local people and communities; local, national, and international governments; civil societies; and corporate entities are essential to achieve this.

Developed nations have a moral responsibility to provide financial and technical support for research and development of energy sources that bypass fossil fuels and depend on non-polluting, renewable and sustainable energy.

2. Renewable energy sources that do not destroy waterways or pollute air or land must become a much larger portion of energy production:

Double the amount of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2020 while significantly reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Increased efficiency in current and future buildings, technologies, and transport will increase available supplies of energy.

New energy development must consider not only present needs and conditions but also those that climate change makes likely in the near and long-range future.

3. To provide access to adequate sustainable energy sources, as well as the ongoing development of sustainable technologies we propose the following financing alternatives:

Eliminate all subsidies for fossil fuels and dangerous chemical substances.  
Levy a global tax on all extractive and polluting industries, above clean-up costs.

Reduce military budgets by 30%. Current military spending is more than \$4.6 billion a day, over \$1.7 trillion last year.

Eliminate corporate tax havens.

Develop sustainable technologies and facilitate transfer knowledge of existing technologies, along with education and infrastructure to support them.

4. Provide developing countries with the appropriate sustainable technologies, as well as the education and infrastructure needed to support them.

Good governance at all levels is essential to creating sustainable energy sources and ensuring the human rights of all as well as the well-being of Earth. The practices of local, national and international governments, civil societies, and corporations must be ethical, transparent, accountable, and corruption-free. All stakeholders must have access to necessary information and opportunities to participate in decision-making, development, and the benefits of development.

