



Global Alliance for
Sustainable Energy

PRESS RELEASE

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IS FORMED TO TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION TOWARDS THE FULL SUSTAINABILITY OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Alliance brings together 17 founding members including utilities and global players in the solar PV and wind value chains, sector associations and innovation partners

Unique in scope and ambition, the new organization is open to likeminded partners, from industry to civil society, academia and end-users

Founding members and external experts to address sustainability challenges of renewable industry in launch event today

September 16th, 2021 – A group of global leaders from across the renewable energy value chain and the sector’s innovation ecosystem today launched a new organization to ensure renewables are wholly sustainable for people and the planet and lead a just transition away from fossil fuels.

The partners, united in a shared vision for the sustainability of the renewables industry and the need to take concrete, collaborative action, have come together to create the **Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy**. The initiative, launched today in a virtual event, is unique in its scope and ambition, representing the founding members’ joint response to the urgent need to decarbonize the global energy system while ensuring its sustainability from an environmental, social and governance (ESG) perspective.

The Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy brings together utility companies from diverse geographies, major manufacturers in the wind power and solar PV supply chains as well as sector associations and innovation partners. The 17 founding members are, in alphabetical order: **3M, Adani Green Energy Ltd., EDP, Eletrobras, Enel Green Power, Global Solar Council, Global Wind Energy Council, Goldwind, Iberdrola, JA Solar, Nordex Group, NTPC Limited, Politecnico di Milano, Politecnico di Torino, ReNew Power, Risen Energy and Trina Solar.**

“We have to act now – and act together – in making a serious commitment towards carbon-free, sustainable energy,” said **Salvatore Bernabei, representative of the founding members of the Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy, and CEO of Enel Green Power.** “We will pursue our mission to make a collective impact in embedding sustainability across the entire value chain by leveraging on core, shared values: responsibility, respect for human rights, protection of the environment and biodiversity, but also open collaboration and transparency.”

The Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy aims to redefine the meaning of ‘sustainable energy’ and embrace all those working in and impacted by renewables, joining efforts with civil society, end-users, policymakers, academic institutions, materials suppliers, Original Equipment Manufacturers and likeminded utilities to



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interface with governments and investors. The initiative is fully aligned with the 2030 agenda set out in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

While wind and solar have distinct characteristics as renewable technologies, they are highly complementary and share both similar growth trajectories and similar challenges to their sustainable deployment. Closer alignment between wind and solar is therefore critical for accelerating the energy transition.

“The wind industry has a crucial role to play in cleaning up the dirty parts of the global economy such as steel, cement and heavy transport but also to decarbonize our own supply chain at the same time,” said **Ben Backwell, CEO of the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)**. “Work on the wind industry’s own sustainability is already under way as we move from pilot projects to a full-scale industry approach, addressing challenges such as circular economy solutions to blade recycling and protecting labor practices and human rights in a rapidly expanding workforce.”

“Beyond its climate impact, solar power can make a significant contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals thanks to the ‘ripple effect’ that fans out into the economic, social and environmental domains, benefiting areas such as health, education, gender equality and poverty alleviation,” said **Gianni Chianetta, CEO of the Global Solar Council (GSC)**. “What is key is a joined-up effort. It’s no longer enough for any one technology, industry or organization to lead the way: we need to lead together, with collaboration and joint action.”

The launch of the Alliance comes at a critical time for climate action and the energy transition, just two months ahead of the United Nations’ COP26 climate summit due to take place in Glasgow. Meanwhile, the latest scientific assessment from the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that the world is off track to limit global temperatures increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels or even keep them well below 2°C, as set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement, and has indicated that the planet will warm by 1.5°C in the next two decades without drastic moves to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said this scientific consensus “must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy our planet”.

The pathway to keeping global heating within the limits set by the Paris Agreement is net-zero by 2050 and climate action needs to be stepped up to reach that goal. In that scenario, almost 70% of electricity generation globally would come from solar PV and wind power, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Renewable power technologies, led by wind and solar PV, have already stepped up to dominate new installations of electricity generation, as they have become the cheapest sources of power in many markets. In the past seven years, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), more renewable power was added annually to the world’s grids than from fossil fuels and nuclear combined: in 2020, the dominance of clean technologies over traditional sources climbed further with 260 gigawatts of renewables-based generation added worldwide, more than four times that of other sources.

The launch event – ***The Sustainability Mission of the Energy Transition: Presenting the Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy*** – will feature speakers from founding members, who will provide perspectives about how their own organizations are already actively working towards the Alliance’s vision for sustainable energy. That will include roundtables addressing the topics of sustainability in the renewables supply chain and progress towards net-zero goals. External experts will provide insights on key topics for the Alliance, including: **Dante**



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Pesce, former chair and current member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights; **Heidi Huusko**, Senior Manager, Environment & Climate at the UN Global Compact; **Peter Paul van de Wijs**, Chief External Affairs Officer, Global Reporting Initiative; **Michela Miletto**, Director, UNESCO Programme Office on World Water Assessment; and **Meredith Adler**, Executive Director of Student Energy.

The 17 members of the Alliance are set to work together to tackle the sustainability challenges in this transition and bring results both in the short and the medium term. They start their collaboration by focusing on four key areas where they can achieve quick wins for the sustainability of the renewable energy industry, aligning different players by setting and harmonizing standards and metrics, around which common targets can be set, and aligning around best practices. The focus areas are: **net-zero emissions and CO₂ footprints; circular economy and design; human rights; and the water footprints.**

The alliance is open to new members who share this vision and can contribute concretely towards the ultimate goal of becoming a truly sustainable industry within the transition to net-zero by 2050.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

The Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy (www.sustainable-energy.eco) is an independent organization created to drive progress towards the full sustainability of the renewable energy industry. The Alliance is committed to the widespread adoption of best practices and the definition of sustainability standards across the solar and wind energy value chains, through education and partnerships. The Alliance aims to align the global renewables sector with the ultimate goal of becoming a 100% sustainable industry, defining concrete steps now in order to achieve net zero by 2050.

The launch event can be joined by registering at <https://www.sustainable-energy.eco/event.html>

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