

HISAR SCHOOL

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“Protecting Freedom in the Global Age”

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Creating an International Framework to Achieve

SDG7



**RESEARCH
REPORT**

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Forum: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Issue: Creating an international framework to achieve SDG7

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Introduction

Energy lies at the heart of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Advancement in SDG 7 has the potential to spur progress across the other SDGs— on poverty eradication, gender equality, climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security, health, education, sustainable cities and communities, clean water and sanitation, jobs, innovation, transport, and the treatment of refugees and other displaced people.

Yet progress on SDG 7 is falling short. There is still much to do to ensure universal access. Despite increases in electrification over the last years, about million people still lack access to electricity. Meanwhile, around 3 billion people rely on wood, charcoal, animal and crop wastes, or other solid fuels to cook their food and heat their homes, and the rate of progress towards cleaner fuels and technologies in fact slowed down between and . Significant improvements have been made in energy efficiency, but global progress is still not on target to reach our goals. Renewables are becoming well-established in the electricity sector, but lag behind in heat and transport end uses.

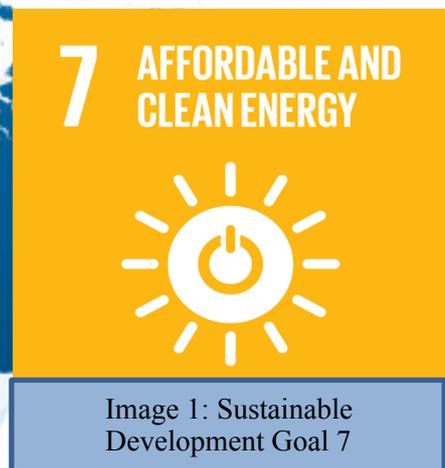


Image 1: Sustainable Development Goal 7

Definition of Key Terms

Renewable/Sustainable Energy: Energy that does not originate from unreplenishable sources like fossil fuels and radioactive elements. (i.e. Biomass, solar energy, geothermal energy, wind energy etc.)

Photovoltaic Compounds: Compounds that release energy when exposed to direct sunlight, the main components of solar panels.

Fossil Fuels: Combustible materials such as oil, coal, and natural gas that are derived from the remains of formerly living material, such as plants and animals.

Renewable Energy: Power generated using natural resources, such as wind, solar energy, tides, and geothermal energy that are naturally replenished.

Hydropower: The use of the kinetic energy in moving water such as rivers or tidal currents to generate electricity.

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General Overview

For most of human history, humans used traditional biomass for their energy needs. This means they would use anything from wood (if it was available) to dried animal dung. Most people had access to this energy but it was very unhealthy and not efficient. It releases carbon which is bad for the environment. Also, the smoke it gives off is bad for health and still is a major cause of death for women and children under five around the world. There is also the danger of accidental fires and injury.

Electricity is a much safer form of energy. In the 19th century it became possible for many cities to use electric lights. The energy made in a central plant powered all the lights in the network. Now, almost all technology runs on energy from electricity. Even a phone battery is recharged using electricity. Electricity has changed the lives of people around the world but still 1.1 billion people do not have access to it. There are many ways of producing energy and electricity. However, they can either be sustainable or unsustainable. Sustainable means that it can be used for a long time without negative effects. Examples would be wind, solar, or wave power. Unsustainable means products that only have a limited amount. Once they are used the Earth will no longer have that resource. Examples are oil, coal and gas.

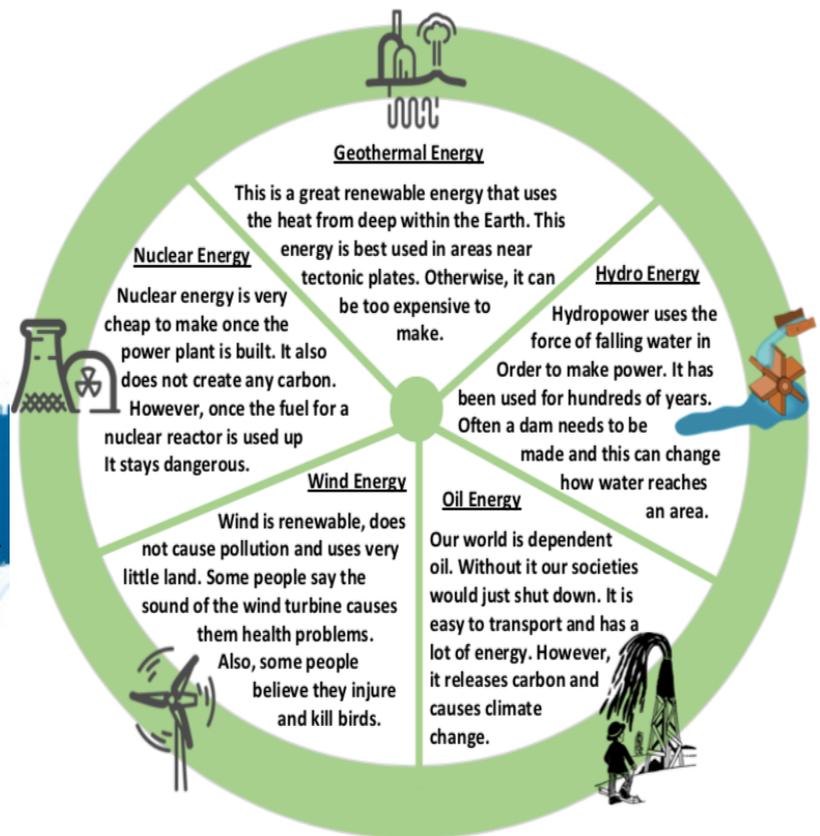


Image 2: Sustainable Energy Types

Over the last several centuries humans have used a lot of the planet's unsustainable resources. Fossil fuels were cheap to get and easy to use. They provided a lot of the energy needed in order to build our modern world. We still are using them daily to live our modern lifestyle. However, they also pollute the Earth. We are now dealing with the problem of two hundred years of releasing carbon into the environment. It is the major cause of climate change.

Something needs to be done to reduce carbon emissions but also provide energy to all people at a fair price.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Sweden

Sweden is the only country in the EU where more than 50% of its energy usage comes from renewable sources. The country passed its target of getting more than half of its energy from green sources in 2012. Now,

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it's aiming for 100% clean energy by 2040. A significant part of its success in harnessing nature to produce renewable energy is down to its plentiful supply of moving water and green areas, which can be used to provide hydropower and biomass.

Albania

Though it's not a member of the EU, Albania's position on the Adriatic coast has allowed it to take advantage of tidal power. Almost 100% of the energy produced in Albania comes from hydropower sources. But academics say the country is only using a third of its potential to create clean energy, as its coastal location could provide the ideal spot to harness wind energy and ditch reliance on imports.

Denmark

Another country committing to an energy system free from fossil fuels by 2050. Denmark is a world leader in wind energy production. Its government says it produces more than twice as much wind energy per person than any other developed country. It's aiming to bring that up further, by constructing a giant offshore wind farm off the island of Møn in the Baltic Sea. By the time it's completed in 2022, it will produce enough electricity to power 600,000 households.

Timeline of Events

1970s	<i>Cars in the 1970s could go 13 miles for every gallon. Now, most cars go at least 35 miles for every gallon. This is an improvement of almost three times!</i>
2000	<i>UN declared a list of 8 goals which were known as the Millennium Development Goals. These were things the world's governments wanted to do in order to reduce poverty in the world.</i>
2012	<i>International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. It wanted to bring attention to the fact that access to clean energy can help people escape poverty.</i>
2014-2024	<i>The Decade of Sustainable Energy for all.</i>
2015	<i>To build on the work of the Millennium Development Goals the UN created the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 7 is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.</i>
2052	<i>Some scientists believe oil will run out by 2052.</i>
2060	<i>Gas will run out by 2060.</i>
2088	<i>Coal will last until 2088.</i>

Treaties and Events

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Sustainable Development Goals

- This movement began in 2016 to replace the Millennium Development Goals. These goals are much broader and tackle the causes of impoverishment.
- Goal 7 is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It also wants to increase energy efficiency and how much power is made from renewable resources.
- Countries will work together to reach the goals by 2030.

The International Energy Charter

- This Charter started as the European Energy Charter. It works to help make it easier for countries to cooperate about energy.
- It brings together countries that export energy and those that use it. It also looks at energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- The International Charter was signed in 2015 and now has 88 members.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The Copenhagen Climate Conference of 2009, although it was held in great hopes, failed to show enough progress as several attending world leaders have also expressed. While it wasn't a complete failure and many agreements have been reached, one of the most important reasons the conference could not achieve the goals many countries had in their minds was the lack of support and the fact that the conference was not legally binding in any way. That is why a legally binding agreement is needed to reach an ideal level of progression.

There have been many conferences that aimed to improve the problem of global warming and climate change by promoting the use of renewable energies, but none of them were as publicly-known as the Copenhagen Climate Conference of 2009. These conferences include, but are not limited to, the UN Climate Conferences held by the UNEP and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) to promote the climate agenda annually, and the World Climate Conference which has had 3 efficient sessions under the control of the WMO (World Meteorological Organization).

Possible Solutions

Carbon Markets

Carbon markets aim minimize greenhouse emission (GHG, or “carbon”) emissions cost-effectively by setting limits on emissions and authorizing the commerce of emission units, that are instruments representing emission reductions. Commerce permits are entities that may minimize emissions. Lowering the economic value of reducing emissions.

Climate Credit Mechanisms

Climate crediting mechanisms, like different carbon market mechanisms, change entities, that the value of reducing emissions is high, to pay low-priced emitters for carbon credits that they'll use towards meeting their emission-reduction obligations, or for voluntary or commerce functions. These mechanisms-e.g. the Clean

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Development Mechanism (CDM)-put a value on carbon, serving to impute the environmental and social prices of carbon pollution, and allow commerce, that lowers the economic value of reducing emissions.

Crowdfunding

Innovative approach for comes, organizations, entrepreneurs, and startups to lift cash for their causes from multiple individual donors or investors. Four models of crowdfunding exist: donations; reward; lending; and equity.

Public Guarantees

Guarantees can mobilize and leverage industrial finance by mitigating and/or protecting risks (such as political, regulatory, and foreign-exchange risk), notably industrial default or political risks. This note focuses on public guarantees, wherever a government or a global donor agrees involved some draw back risk, usually by presumptuous a borrower's debt obligation within the event of a default.

Green Bonds

Green bonds can mobilize resources from domestic and international capital markets for temperature change adaptation, renewables and completely different environment-friendly comes. they're no disparate from standard bonds, their solely distinctive characteristic being the specification that the return be invested with incomes that generate environmental advantages. In its simplest type, a bond institution can raise a set quantity of capital, repaying the capital (principal) and increased interest (coupon) over a group amount of your time. The institution can have to be compelled to generate sufficient money flows to repay interest and capital.

Impact Investment

Investments created into firms, organizations, and funds with the intention to get a measurable social and environmental impact aboard a monetary come back.

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