

# A 60 Second Guide To: Sustainable Development

## Goal 7

### Affordable and Clean Energy

#### Introduction

Energy is an essential component in sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. However it's estimated that 2.8 billion people still have no access to modern energy services and around 1.1 billion don't have electricity (2015 figures). It is further estimated that approximately 4.3 million people die prematurely each year from the inhalation of indoor pollution from cooking and heating with unsustainable fuels. This goal aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

#### The 5 aims of this goal are to:

- 1 To ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030.
- 2 To increase significantly the proportion of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.
- 3 To double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.
- 4 To improve international cooperation in accessing clean energy research and technology and the promotion of investment in infrastructure and clean energy technology by 2030 (including renewable energy and cleaner fossil fuel technology).
- 5 Develop infrastructure and improve technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all people in developing countries by 2030.

#### Background information

The challenges posed by energy and sustainable development were highlighted at a meeting of the United Nations in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. Agenda 21 was established at this meeting and provided a blueprint for sustainability in the 21st Century. One of the document's key themes was energy and it also highlighted the fact that current levels of energy consumption and energy production were not sustainable. As world population rises, demand continues to increase placing greater importance on the use of energy resources in a way that protects human health, the atmosphere and the natural environment.

In 2001 countries agreed that greater emphasis needed to be placed on development, implementation and transfer of cleaner more efficient energy technologies and that urgent action was needed to expand alternative energy sources.

In 2002 at a world summit in Johannesburg key outcomes included recognition that energy services have a positive impact on poverty eradication as well as the recognition that action needed to be taken on subsidies in this area that were inhibiting sustainable development.

In 2011 a 'Sustainable Energy For All' initiative was created by the UN Secretary General to pursue three major objectives by 2030: • universal energy access to modern energy services • double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency • doubling the share of renewable energy in global use

The decade from 2014-2024 has been declared the 'United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy' and will be a period during which the objectives of this goal are accelerated. A shift must be made towards low carbon energy systems and green economies.

#### Further Reading/Linked Resources

- Agenda 21



For more information and to take part in the Global Learning Programme please see: [www.glp-e.org.uk](http://www.glp-e.org.uk) and @glp\_e

For more information on the support provided by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) please see [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org) and @RGS\_IBGSchools

All information and statistics taken from [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

#### 7. Affordable and Clean Energy

