

Global Lighting and Energy Access Partnership (Global LEAP)

Thematic Area ENERGY SYSTEMS AND INTEGRATION

Goals

The Global Lighting and Energy Access Partnership (Global LEAP) works to catalyze global markets for affordable, quality, and efficient clean energy access products and services. Efforts focus on product quality assurance, promotion of energy efficiency in energy access contexts, and partner collaboration.

Potential Impact

The recently adopted UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) has set a goal of achieving universal energy access by 2030. Global LEAP and partners aim to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG7 by supporting the growth of sustainable commercial off-grid energy markets across the developing world.

Why?

Over one billion people globally live without access to electricity, and another billion have only unreliable access. Distributed clean energy technologies—ranging from pico-solar lighting products to solar home systems and community mini-grids—are critical to closing this electricity access gap, delivering life-transforming health, environmental, and socioeconomic benefits.

Activities

- **Quality assurance:** Global LEAP supports development of quality assurance (QA) frameworks for off-grid energy products and services to build consumer and investor confidence.
- **Off-grid energy efficiency:** Global LEAP supports development and uptake of super-efficient appliances and equipment, and other end-use technologies in energy access contexts, thereby reducing energy supply costs and accelerating access to enhanced energy services.
- **Collaboration:** Global LEAP facilitates programmatic, policy, and research collaboration among energy access stakeholders to advance commercial markets for high-quality, high-efficiency clean energy products and services.

Progress

- **Supported growth of global off-grid lighting markets:** Through a longstanding collaboration with the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank's Lighting Global program, Global LEAP has helped enable the dramatic growth of off-grid lighting markets in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, benefiting millions of off-grid households and displacing polluting, kerosene-based solutions. This includes over \$21 million in funding provided to this program by

the Italian government as a commitment under Global LEAP, as well as on-going funding support for Lighting Global's QA work stream. This support has enabled the sale of 17 million quality-assured off-grid solar lighting products benefiting more than 85 million people in 32 countries. This work is now expanding to include larger solar home system kits. Global LEAP also provided seed funding for the establishment of the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA), an industry association for the off-grid solar sector that represents more than 60 companies globally.

- **Furthered QA for mini- and micro-grids:** Global LEAP is also supporting the development of a QA Framework for mini- and micro-grids in energy access contexts.
- **Launched the 2015–2016 Global LEAP Awards competitions** that identify the world's highest-performing off-grid televisions and fans. A total of 45 nominations from 15 companies were received, and winners will be announced at CEM7. Global LEAP Awards competitions have been complemented by Global LEAP off-grid industry B2B networking events held in South Korea and Bangladesh, as well as an upcoming event in India.
- Launched an innovative effort with the multi-donor facility Energising Development (EnDev) that leverages results-based financing (RBF) incentives to **encourage off-grid energy companies in key global markets to make large purchases of Global LEAP Award-winning products**. An initial pilot round of incentives was launched in Bangladesh in February 2016, and the first incentive claims for 6000 units were recently received from several leading off-grid energy distributors that have never purchased off-grid appliances at this scale before.
- **Developed a first-of-its kind off-grid appliance data platform that hosts actionable performance and market data**, guiding market stakeholders' procurement, investment, and policy decisions about off-grid appliances.
- **Advanced market research and intelligence** through continued efforts to design and implement a robust off-grid appliance data platform to address critical information gaps in this appliance market. Global LEAP also published the *State of the Global Off-Grid Appliance Market* report, which provides the first-ever analysis of the off-grid appliance market.
- **Developed the first-ever test methodologies for off-grid TVs and off-grid fans** in collaboration with partners in academia, industry, and development and test laboratories. Global LEAP is also building local test laboratory capacities with regard to off-grid product design and testing.
- **Partnered with Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) to launch the Efficiency for Access (E4A) Coalition at COP21** to raise global awareness of the efficiency–access nexus opportunity, as well as mobilize commitments towards the goal of deploying super-efficient end-use technologies to drive universal access to energy. E4A partners convened at two workshops in Washington, DC, and London in January and April 2016, respectively, to develop a strategy for achieving E4A goals. A key outcome of these workshops is a new partnership to advance off-grid refrigeration, as well as efforts currently under development as part of E4A's "Year of Action 2016."

Next Steps

- **Expand global understanding** of the critical role of QA and end-use efficiency in energy access.
- **Expand market-catalyzing successes** in off-grid solar devices, appliances, and mini-grid markets to benefit micro-enterprise, health, agricultural, and other off-grid applications.

Lead CEM Government(s)	United States of America
Participating CEM Government(s)	Italy, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Kingdom
Other Key Partners	African Development Bank, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Department for International Development (UK), GEF, IFC, Infrastructure Development Company Limited, Power Africa, Power for All, Shell Foundation, TERI, UNDP, UNEP, UN Foundation, World Bank
