

Clean Energy Ministerial - Carbon-Free Energy Initiative (CFEI) Work Plan 2024-2025

PREFACE

Purpose of Work Plan

This document outlines the CEM Carbon-Free Energy Initiative (CFEI) and its planned actions for the next year. It explains the CFEI's objective, mission, scope, focus areas, and operational structure.

Goal of the CFEI

The CFEI is a multilateral collaborative initiative aiming to accelerate the deployment of carbon-free energy technologies and systems globally, achieving early energy transition and contributing to a net-zero future. It will focus on collaborative projects, knowledge sharing, and policy alignment to advance commercially viable carbon-free solutions across all sectors, with a technology-agnostic approach.

The Mission of the CFEI

The Initiative intends to:

- Enable both private and public sectors to source carbon-free energy, including electricity, fuel, and feedstock for industrial processing;
- Advocate for the establishment of institutional foundations by governments to support the diffusion of carbon-free energy utilization;
- Promote global public-private and multilateral foundations on policies, measures, and the development of best practices;

As with all CEM Initiatives, the Carbon-Free Energy Initiative would aim to have the following components:

- Aspirational decarbonization objectives/targets;
- Annual work plans, the focus and scope of which evolve over time;
- Working groups, focused on specific themes;
- Campaigns to raise ambition levels;
- Workshops & webinars (both global and regional);
- Targeted programs;
- Analysis and studies;
- Strategic partnerships to achieve CFEI goals;

Identified Thematic Focus Areas for CFEI (Scope)

The CFEI will initially prioritize the following focus areas:

A. Decarbonizing the Power Sector (Scope 2)

To avoid the worst-case scenario of climate change, a rapid transition in the global power system is strongly required. Fossil fuels dominate electricity production: 76% of electricity comes from fossil fuels and this source accounts for 23% of the world's emissions. The CFEI aims to reduce global reliance on electricity generated from unabated fossil fuel such as coal and achieve carbon neutrality through global cooperation.

B. Decarbonizing the Industrial Sector (Scope 1)

Unlike the power sector where commercialized options such as renewables and nuclear are available, decarbonization of industrial processes is more complicated and difficult, given that such requires the development of innovative technologies that enable carbon-free fuels and feedstocks to replace conventional ones, including chemical reductants for steel production and naphtha for petrochemical processes. The CFEI stresses that decarbonization of industrial processes is essential for achieving net zero and will serve as a multilateral cooperative body for the collective realization of industrial sector decarbonization.

C. Narrowing the Climate Response Capacity Gap Between Countries

Recognizing that countries are at different stages of energy transition, the CFEI aims to facilitate a globally equitable shift to a carbon-free energy future. This will involve supporting developing countries in accessing clean technologies and building necessary capacity for their transition, ultimately ensuring a unified global effort in achieving net zero.

The International Landscape and the Role of CFEI

The CFEI acknowledges and complements existing international initiatives working towards decarbonizing the global energy system, such as Mission Innovation, the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The CFEI offers a dedicated platform for high-level dialogue and collaboration among governments specifically focused on carbon-free energy solutions. Furthermore, the CFEI will actively facilitate public-private partnerships to mobilize investment, accelerate technology deployment, and scale up carbon-free energy solutions. Recognizing the diverse needs and capacities of countries, the CFEI will also support decarbonization efforts by sharing best practices, facilitating knowledge transfer, and promoting collaboration on carbon-free energy dissemination.

A key priority of the CFEI is to reduce the divide between developed and developing countries in climate vulnerability and responses. The initiative will work towards ensuring equitable access to carbon-free energy technologies and supporting capacity building in developing countries and promoting a just and inclusive energy transition for all.

The CFEI aims to leverage the strengths of the CEM framework to foster practical actions and impactful outcomes in the global pursuit of a carbon-free energy future.

Leadership and Governance

- **Lead Governments:** South Korea, Japan
- **Participating Governments:** UAE, Czech Republic
- **Coordinator:** Carbon Free Alliance (CFA)
- **Partners:** International Energy Agency (IEA)

CFEI Advisory Committee Meetings

The CFEI Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from participating countries, will meet regularly to review progress, discuss steps, and guide the initiative's direction.

Working Groups

The working groups will be established to address the identified focus areas. The working groups will:

- Develop a detailed work plan with specific objectives, tasks, and timelines.
- Involve experts from governments, industry, and research institutions.
- Report regularly to the Advisory Group on progress and outcomes.

Working Group 1: Sharing practices and information for CFE Certification and Standardization
Additional working groups will be determined through further consultation by the Advisory Committee.

Workshops and Webinars

CFEI members and working groups will organize workshops and webinars related to the identified focus areas above. Such events can be held either in person or online. Workshop and webinar topics will be curated based on the ongoing projects and areas of expertise of our active CFEI working groups, ensuring relevance and value for our members.

Private Sector Engagement

Recognizing the shared goal of decarbonization, the CFEI will commit to fostering mutually beneficial partnerships with the private sector. Working groups and the Advisory Group will actively seek collaborative opportunities that leverage the strengths of all stakeholders.

PROPOSED ACTIONS AND OUTPUTS 2024-2025

The CFEI will during 2024-2025 prioritise the following actions, subject to available funding.

Launching the CFEI

- Officially launch the CFEI
- Organize a side event at CEM15 to announce the initiative

Developing Work Plan for Working Groups

- Objective: Define specific actions and outputs for power and industrial sector decarbonization.
- Tasks:
 - Organize initial meetings of each working group to discuss priorities and methodologies.
 - Develop detailed work plans outlining objectives, tasks, timelines, and expected outcomes.
 - Submit work plans for approval to the CFEI Advisory Group.

Conducting Initial Data Collection and Analysis

- Objective: Gather information on existing policies, technologies, and best practices related to carbon-free energy in participating countries.
- Tasks:
 - Develop a survey to collect relevant data from CFEI member countries.
 - Analyze collected data to identify common challenges, opportunities, and potential areas for collaboration.

Coordinator Activities

1. Establish Working Groups

The Coordinator of the CFEI, the CFA, will leverage its digital presence and the CEM framework to convene working groups. This outreach will primarily utilize the following channels:

- **CFEI Homepage:** A dedicated section featuring information about the working groups, their objectives, and participation requirements will be displayed.
- **Social Media Platforms:** Announcements and updates regarding working group formation and activities will be disseminated via CFEI or CFA's accounts.
- **Participant Government Channels:** CFA will work with participating governments to disseminate information regarding working group opportunities through their respective communication channels.

This multi-pronged approach aims to ensure broad awareness and facilitate the participation of qualified individuals (and organizations) in CFEI's critical working groups.

2. Overall Management

The CFA, as Coordinator of the CFEI, will be responsible for overall management and support of CFEI tasks, including Advisory Committee meetings, Working Group activities, CEM and SOM events and side-events, and communication with the CEM Secretariat.

3. Integrate the CFEI into the Global Landscape

The CFA will actively engage with existing international energy transition initiatives to enhance overall coordination. This includes ensuring CFEI complements and leverages other initiatives, potentially serving as a platform to amplify their impact. Furthermore, CFA will maintain a visible presence at relevant

international events to raise awareness and disseminate the CFEI's work and achievements. The CFA will provide regular updates to the Advisory Group regarding these coordination efforts and proactively identify and propose opportunities for joint activities and collaborations that advance CFEI's objectives.

4. Develop and Manage the CFEI web

The CFA, jointly with the CEM Secretariat, will develop a webpage for the CFEI, with information on activities, working groups, events, and publications. The website will be maintained as a current and relevant resource with contributions from CFEI members providing updates on their countries' progress and developments.

Working Group Tasks

Working Group 1: Initiate activities pertaining to the key agenda items below

- Promoting common understandings on carbon-free energy
- Examine carbon-free energy market expansion methodologies
- Recognition of CFE within public grids

CFEI WORK PROCESS

The CFEI will follow an iterative process of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation:

1. Establish consensus on the need for carbon-free energy solutions.
2. Recruit participating countries and organizations.
3. Develop and implement action plans through working group and targeted activities.
4. Regularly monitor progress, share information, and revise strategies as needed.
5. Evaluate the impact of CFEI activities and communicate achievements to stakeholders.

PARTICIPANT MEETINGS

The CFEI Advisory Group meetings will be held 3-4 times per year, potentially virtually, to review progress and adjust plans.

The working groups will meet more frequently to implement its specific tasks.



2024-2025 CFEI High-Level Events

Date	Event	Location
November 2024	CFEI Advisory Committee Meeting	Virtual
February 2025	CFEI Advisory Committee Meeting / Coordinator Launch	Seoul (South Korea) / Virtual
August 2025	CEM Advisory Committee Meeting	Virtual