

Renewable energy

What is SNV?

SNV is a non-profit international development organisation with headquarters in the Netherlands and staff in 35 countries. For over 40 years, we have worked with national, regional and local governments, entrepreneurs and citizen associations to alleviate poverty. Our advisory services are funded by public and private sources. With over 900 technical advisors and 100 local teams, we provide expertise in agriculture, renewable energy, education, health, water and sanitation, forestry, tourism, governance and private sector development.



Why renewable energy?

Approximately 2.5 billion people in developing countries are confronting serious energy supply challenges. Excessive reliance on traditional fuels is exhausting natural resources and degrading productive land. On a domestic level, cooking with these fuels causes serious respiratory illnesses, particularly among women and children. SNV believes in renewable energy as a means to keep or lift households out of poverty, provide jobs, grow small businesses and combat climate change. We work with government bodies, the private sector and civil society to take local renewable energy solutions to scale. Our renewable energy expertise ranges from setting up nationwide biogas markets to linking large businesses with small producers in the biofuels sector.

Our renewable energy experience

Domestic biogas

- Working with the Netherlands government, SNV started supporting domestic biogas activities in Nepal in 1989. By the end of 2009, biogas programmes were established in seven Asian countries, improving life for 300,000 households. Since 2008, we have put our biogas expertise into action in seven African countries, where we aim to establish commercially viable biogas markets.
- SNV's Vietnam Biogas Programme won an Ashden International Award in 2010 for progress in the field of sustainable energy. Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and working with the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, SNV helped install biogas plants for over 75,000 households in 37 provinces by the end of 2009.
- The World Bank is funding private sector development in the SNV-supported National Biodigester Programme in Cambodia. As a result, 15 local companies are now providing biogas services to rural households.
- SNV leads the Asian Development Bank's Energy for All Partnership working group on domestic biogas. Through this initiative, the completion of an additional one million biogas plants is planned by 2016.
- The Africa Biogas Partnership Programme is a public-private partnership between Hivos and SNV that runs six national domestic biogas programmes. The partnership develops commercially viable, biogas markets.

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Biofuels

- In Central America, Peru and Bolivia, SNV links leading companies with small producers in the biofuel sector. Using public-private platforms to scale these initiatives, our work increases employment and income opportunities for local entrepreneurs, and their access to energy in remote areas.
- In 2009, SNV completed a study of the laws and regulations governing the production and consumption of biofuels across Latin America. This analysis informs our work with governments in renewable energy policy planning and implementation.
- In Zambia, SNV works with the African Rural Energy Enterprise Development to develop association-driven rural energy platforms.

Carbon financing

- Since 2005, SNV has helped secure carbon financing for 20,000 biogas units in Nepal through the compliance market and 5,000 units in Cambodia through the voluntary market.
- SNV's dedicated carbon finance advisors work with the Laotian and Nepalese governments to strengthen their Kyoto compliance expertise and to promote pro-poor carbon financing.

Improved watermills

- The Improved Watermill project implemented by SNV and the Nepal Centre for Rural Technology won an Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy in 2007. The project uses simple techniques to transform the efficiency of traditional Himalayan watermills, reviving a centuries-old craft, boosting the millers' income and status, and halting the march of polluting diesel mills. Over 5,800 watermills were upgraded by the end of 2009, benefiting 290,000 families.



SNV is implementing projects and programmes in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Niger.

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