RES4Africa Foundation Knowledge Platform

The value of sustainability compliance in RE projects: UN SDGs and ESG criteria

AFRY Management Consulting

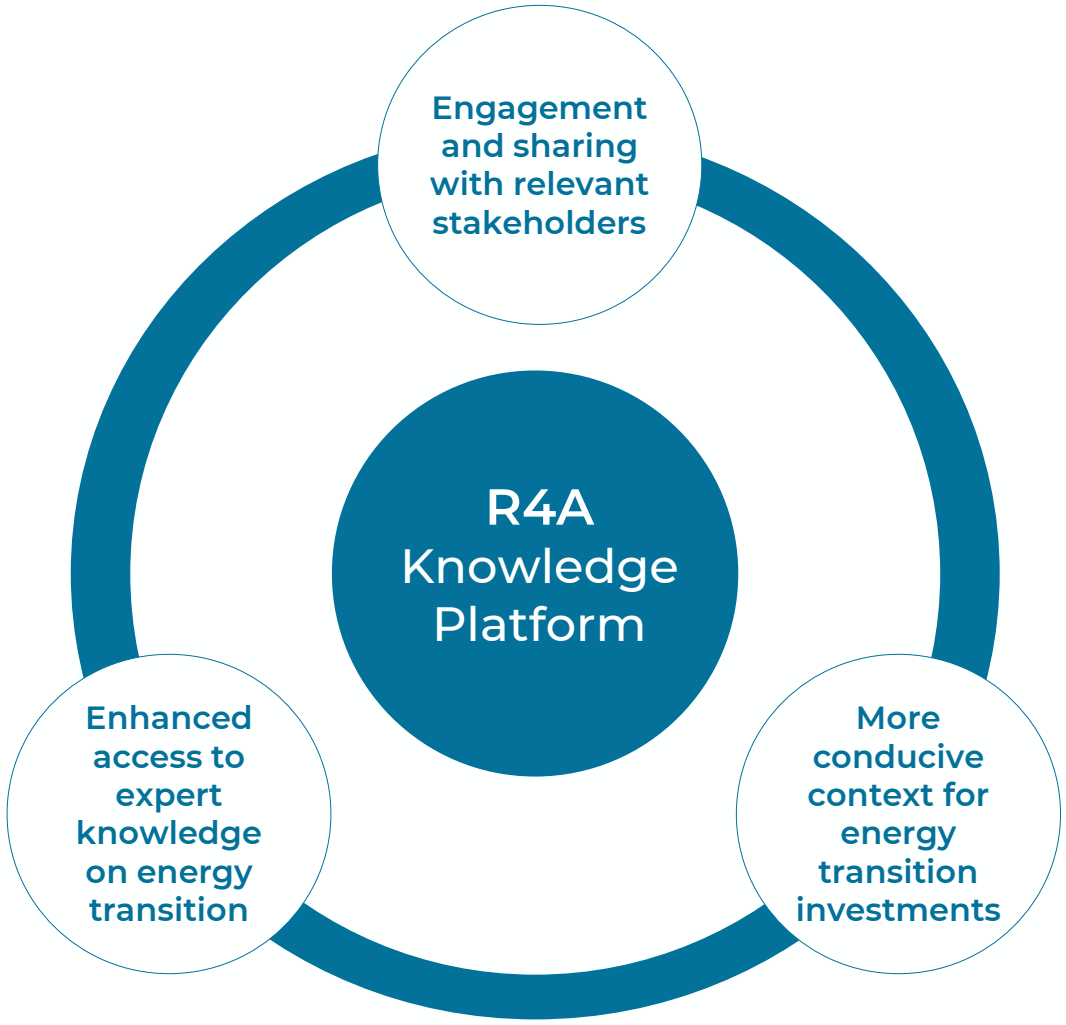
RES4AFRICA FOUNDATION

The RES4Africa Knowledge Platform offers a set of content-driven, technical-functional training

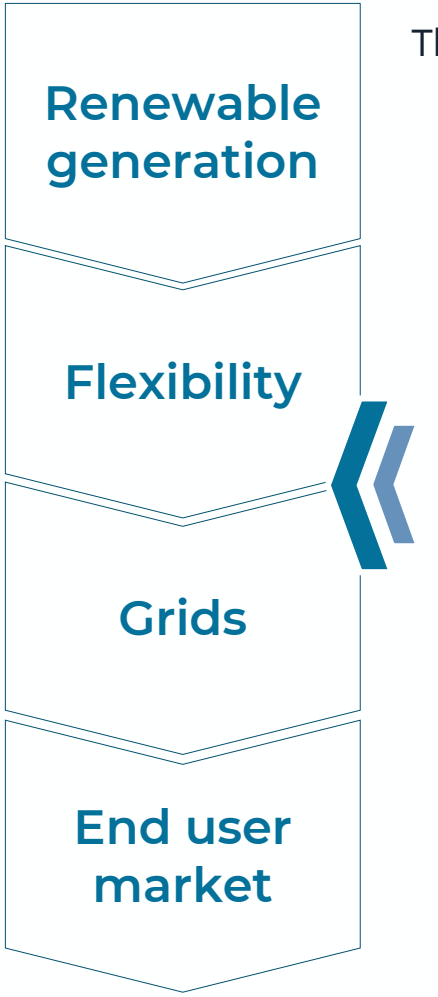
The aim of the RES4Africa Knowledge Platform is to establish a public platform of technical training content, usable by third parties in accordance with the Foundation's core principles of a think tank and open hub for knowledge sharing.

The purpose of the Platform is to offer a set of technical-functional content, organized in sharp modules covering renewable energy and more in general the key topics part of the energy transition.

The modules will be also delivered to on-request professionals of the energy sector (e.g., Energy Ministries, Regulatory Authority, vertically integrated incumbents, Associations, other relevant parties).



The Platform covers all the key areas of energy transition, with a comprehensive perspective across the value chain



The Platform covers the following thematic areas:

Technologies: a comprehensive understanding of different technological options and features / potential is a pre-requisite for a successful planning and implementation of fully functioning energy systems

Policies and regulations: must go hand in hand with measures ensuring that industrial and other economic capabilities are aligned with sustainable development and climate priorities

Access to market: Successful deployment of RES and flexibility technologies depends on how effectively MWh produced can be sold on the market and to what extent risk is properly hedged

Permitting: one of the key hurdles that developers face, especially for utility-scale RES projects. Key common issues can be identified, and proper management principles can be set up

Financing: bankability is one of the highest impact factors to ensure that utility-scale RES projects are successfully deployed. Compliance with requirements from international funding entities is fundamental

Operation: considering the level of maturity reached by RES technologies, a significant share of the value that can be extracted by RES projects stems from an advanced asset management approach

Sustainability: is progressively becoming a top priority for investors and energy industry stakeholders in assessing investment opportunities. A more comprehensive evaluation approach must be adopted

ESG criteria and UN SDGs are becoming central in the development of utility-scale projects

The Platform covers the following thematic areas:

- Technologies
- Policies and regulations
- Access to market
- Permitting
- Financing
- Operation
- **Sustainability**

ESG Criteria and UN SDGs: how renewable energy can lead to a more sustainable world

What is the context: renewable energy sources present an unprecedent opportunity to provide a sustainable development framework, tracing a path for all humanity

Why is this relevant: renewable energy projects are directly related to sustainable development because of the effects they have on both economic and human productivity. Opportunities for energy security, social and economic advancement, energy access, reducing the effects of climate change, and improving the environment and public health are provided by renewable energy sources

What are the key questions:

— How can ESG criteria help RES?

— How do the SDGs work?

— How can the SDGs be valuable to RES?

The Sustainable Development Goals and Renewable Energy Sources push towards a universal commitment

- Adopted in 2015 by the UN, set the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), cover poverty, health and education, inequality, economic growth, climate change, and fight to protect our oceans and forests
- As the SDGs "seek to realize the human rights of all," and more than 90% of the SDG targets are linked to international human rights and labor standards, companies must respect human rights in their core operations, in line with responsibilities under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Respect for human rights is essential for the renewable energy industry to maximize its positive contributions to the SDGs, enable both a fast and sustainable transition to a low-carbon economy, and ensure that contributions to some SDGs do not come at the expense of others

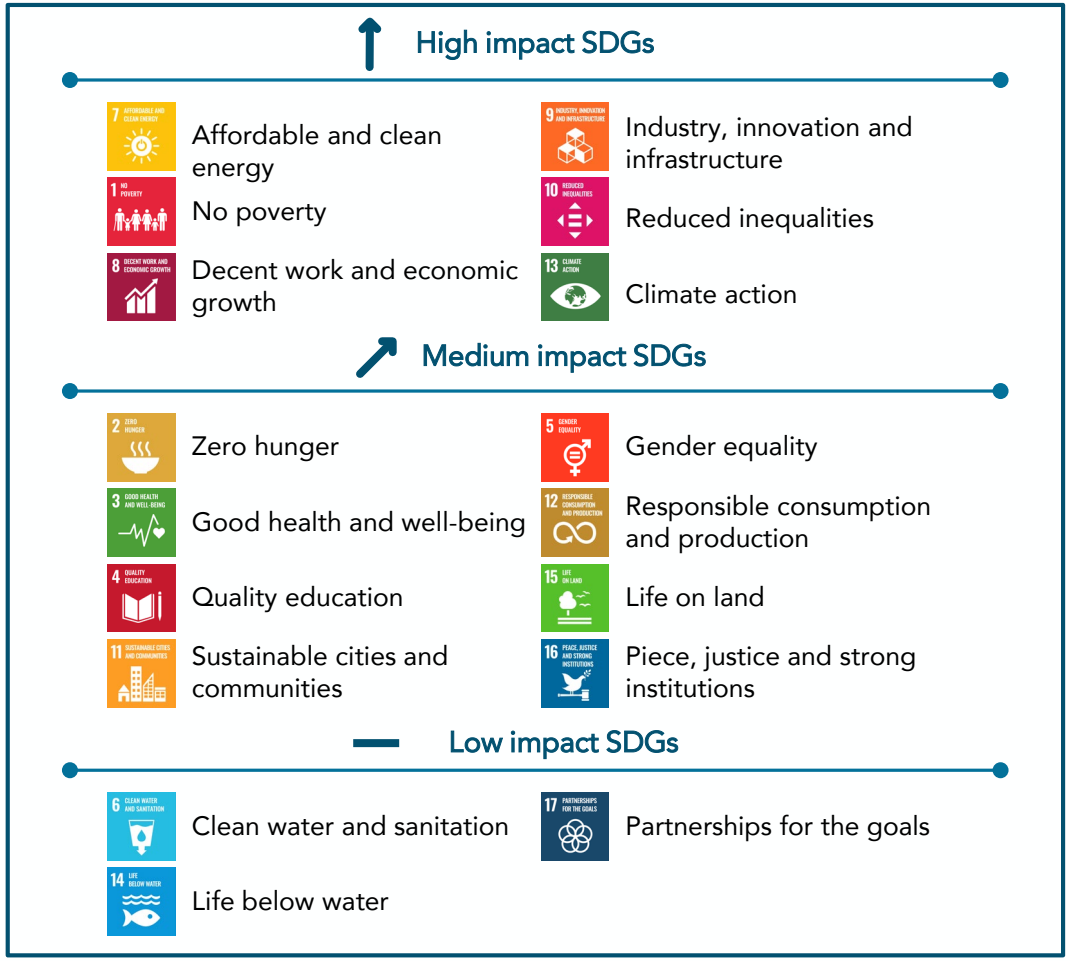
Source: UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development

RES have huge impact on SDGs by providing affordable energy, increasing wellness and mitigating climate changes

Comments

- All SGDs are meant to be intertwined between them and have a strong connection to each other
- However, some are more relevant than other when talking about renewable energy projects
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to realize a better and more sustainable future for all, rely heavily on the renewable energy sector to be realized
- The renewable energy industry provides core contributions to SDG 7, which focuses on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Additionally, RES contribute to the achievement of all the other 16 SDGs, including lowering poverty, reducing hunger, expanding access to healthcare, education, and clean water, and protecting life on land and in the ocean.

RES impact on SDGs



Renewable energy is a major driver to ensure the achievement of clean and affordable energy for all

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

7.1 – Universal access to modern energy

7.2 – Increase global percentage of renewable energy

7.3 – Double the improvement in energy efficiency

7.A – Promote access to research, technology and investments in clean energy

7.B – Expand and upgrade energy services for developing countries

SDG impact

SDG description

- Goal 7 is about ensuring access to clean and affordable energy, which is key to the development of agriculture, business, communications, education, healthcare and transportation. The lack of access to energy hinders economic and human development
- As to date, about 733 million people around the world still lack access to electricity: therefore all 17 SDGs are impacted by access to energy, either directly or indirectly

The connection between SDG and RES

- Renewable energy is particularly positioned to increase electricity access off-grid in rural locations where it is expensive to link people to centralized electrical networks since many renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and micro hydro, can be distributed modularly
- Additionally, SDG 7 demands for ensuring that everyone has access to clean energy as well. Therefore, renewables are crucial for achieving SDG 7 and increasing the availability of sustainable energy when they are grid-integrated to replace fossil fuels in the energy mix

High impact for RES Medium impact for RES Low impact for RES

Renewable energy investments impact on poverty supporting local economy and lowering the cost of power

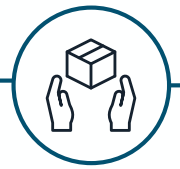
SDG and RES-related sub-categories

1.1 – Universal access to modern energy

1.4 – Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources

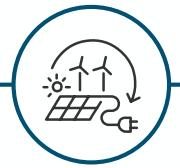
1.5 – Build resilience to environmental, economic and social disasters

SDG impact



SDG description

- As stated by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the greatest global challenge is eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. Over 800 million people continue to live in severe poverty, despite tremendous progress in this area: the number of people subsisting on less than 1.25$ per day was cut in half between 1990 and 2015. All other SDGs, such as those on food security, health, education, the environment, and access to affordable, dependable, and sustainable energy, are intertwined with the goal to end poverty **by 2030**



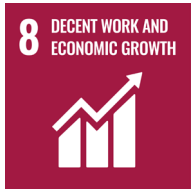
The role of RES

- Renewable energy projects can impact on SDG 1 by:
  - Promoting inclusive employment policies, offering decent labor that pays a living wage, and supporting neighborhood businesses by buying their products
  - Expanding access to power which generates an increase in incomes and therefore lowers the marginal cost of power where new grids connection are installed
  - Supporting local economic development through local procurement of goods and employment and the payment of appropriate taxes and other fees (rent, concession lands fees, etc.) to governments and communities, which could lead to an increase of fund for public expenditures

High impact for RES Medium impact for RES Low impact for RES

Employment and economic growth are boosted by RES socio-economic effects on communities

SDG and RES-related sub-categories



- 8.2 – Diversify, innovate and upgrade for productivity
- 8.3 – Promote policies to support job and enterprises
- 8.4 – Improve resource efficiency
- 8.5 – Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- 8.6 – Promote youth employment, education and training
- 8.7 – End modern slavery, trafficking and child labour
- 8.8 – Protect labour rights and safe working environment
- 8.10 – Universal access to banking, insurance and FS

SDG impact

SDG description

- Goal 8 is about promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
- According to many indicators, the global economy has gotten stronger since the financial crisis of 2008: household income and average annual earnings have risen cumulatively by 8% and 7%, respectively, since 2005; the average annual growth rate of GDP per capita increased to 1.6% annually from 2010–2015, compared to only 0.9% from 2005–2009. Despite the continuous growth, more than 1.4 billion employees globally, according to ILO, are employed in vulnerable roles, with workers lacking labor protections ending with poor pay and challenging circumstances

The role of RES

- Renewable energy projects can contribute directly to achieving the SDG 8 with the adoption of fair and robust labor laws and policies with the aim of protecting workers
- Companies involved in renewable energy projects can promote the SDG 8 through encouraging a "fair transition" to a low-carbon economy, in consideration of the job loss generating from fossil fuel. In order to ensure social and economic protections for members of the affected community, this could involve retraining and hiring laid-off employees, engaging in social dialogue and negotiations with workers and unions, and encouraging and supporting government efforts to invest in and revive local and regional economies affected by the energy transition

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

RES innovation technologies are a driver to resilient and sustainable infrastructures and industrialisation

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

9.3 – Increase access to financial services and markets

9.4 – Upgrade all industries and infrastructures for sustainability

9.5 – Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies

9.A – Facilitate sustainable infrastructure development for developing countries

9.B – Support domestic technology development and industrial diversification

SDG impact

SDG description

- SDG 9 acknowledges that nations continue to underinvest in public infrastructure projects and struggle to incorporate the objectives of infrastructure development, industrialisation, and innovation into their respective growth strategies, while highlighting the ongoing need to foster innovation, industrialisation, and resilient infrastructure. In order to start industrialisation, sound and sustainable infrastructure is required, and innovation ensures the ongoing upgrading of the technology and skills required to support industrialization processes

The role of RES

- By using cutting-edge technical solutions like off-grid or microgrid electrification as well as cutting-edge financial methods like property assessed clean energy finance or public-private partnerships like green banks, renewable energy companies may speed up the development of infrastructure. By utilizing current de-risking processes to create and finance initiatives that advance universal energy access in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), businesses can speed deployment even further. Undoubtedly, this access is required to support other SDG 9 objectives, such as industrialization and innovation processes

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

RES projects ensure equal involvement of communities, reducing energy costs and then income inequalities

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

10.1 – Reduce income inequalities

10.2 – Promote universal, social, economic and political inclusion

10.3 – Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination

10.4 – Adopt fiscal and social policies that promotes equality

10.B – Encourage development assistance and investment in least developed countries

SDG impact

SDG description

- Reducing inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind are integral to achieving the SDGs. Geographically, the world faces enormous disparities: Africa and India, which together account for close to 30% of the world's adult population, possess less than 5% of household wealth, compared to North America and Europe, which together account for 17% of the world's adult population and 64% of the total household wealth
- Energy poverty also reflects other global inequalities: in 2017, 84% of individuals without access to electricity lived in rural areas, and a disproportionate share of them are indigenous people and the world's poorest people. Women and girls, who frequently spend long hours gathering fuel for cooking and breathing indoor air pollution, bear the brunt of energy poverty

The role of RES

- Companies involved in renewable energy projects should conduct inclusive community consultations and human rights due diligence in order to promote inclusive development, champion inclusivity, and work with the government and civil society to make sure that the benefits of renewable energy reach those who have the least access to resources and energy

High impact for RES Medium impact for RES Low impact for RES

Climate change is strongly mitigated by the implementation of net-zero emissions projects

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

13.1 – Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters

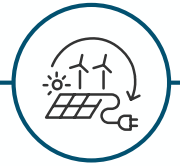
13.3 – Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change

13.B – Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for climate planning and management

SDG impact

SDG description

- In order to keep global warming below 1.5 °C, "rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems... unprecedented in terms of scale... are required," said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in fall 2018
- Urgent action is therefore needed to prevent catastrophic climate distortion; massive deployment of renewable energies will be central to any such effort



The role of RES

- Renewable energy projects, according to the IPCC, shall provide between 70% and 85% of total energy supply by 2050. This major effort will require the installation of 14,000 GW of renewable energy capacity to the existing ones, which will guarantee avoiding a total of 470 gigatons of CO2 emissions by 2050
- Companies operating in the renewable energy sectors should make a strong effort in communicating with external stakeholders to better help the transition from a fossil fuel system

High impact for RES Medium impact for RES Low impact for RES

RES projects can boost agricultural production, increase local income and then guarantee access to food

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

2.1 – Universal access to safe and nutritious food

2.3 – Double productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers

2.4 – Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices

2.A – Invest in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, technology and gene banks

SDG impact

SDG description

- Access to food on a regular, ongoing, and unrestricted basis is a fundamental human right. Similar to poverty, food insecurity is disproportionately prevalent in some areas while being most severe in Asia and Africa. Agriculture, world's greatest employer, supports 40% of the world's population with income or food, and depends on the global food systems to support people's livelihoods. The FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) estimates that to meet the population growth-driven increases in demand for food, feed, and bioenergy, global agricultural output shall increase by 50% from 2012 levels by 2050

The role of RES

- Renewable energy projects allowing the availability of power, particularly in isolated places, can boost agricultural output, enable food to be preserved through refrigeration, and help it reach new markets. By augmenting their income through land leasing and co-location of farms and renewable technologies, renewable energy can also be a substantial help for local farmers
- However, there are risks associated with the fact that many renewable energy technologies are well suited for use on farmland, including competition for arable land and the possibility that land-intensive renewable sources like solar or bioenergy will displace land that was formerly used for food production. Additionally, the manufacture of biofuels and the digging of geothermal wells can contaminate water sources and agricultural land

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

RES affect health by providing services in remote-areas hospitals, and reducing air and water pollution

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

- 3.3 – Fight communicable diseases
- 3.4 – Reduce mortality from non-communicable disease and promote mental health
- 3..5 – Prevent and treat substance abuse
- 3.6 – Reduce road injuries and deaths
- 3.9 – Reduce illnesses and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution
- 3.B – Achieve universal health coverage
- 3.D – Improve early warning systems for global health risks

SDG impact

SDG description

- The right to health is a fundamental human right that is intertwined with other rights, such as the right to access to food, shelter, employment, education, sanitation, information, and participation. Although access to basic health has significantly improved in recent years, the United Nations reports that half of mothers in developing regions obtain the recommended level of healthcare, and children born into poverty have a mortality rate that is more than twice as high as that of their wealthier peers

The role of RES

- Off-grid renewable energy projects can support the powering of outlying healthcare providers, and on-grid projects can improve the availability and price of electricity for hospitals and other service providers. If the electrical grid is disrupted, distributed renewable resources can also be used to deliver urgently required electricity in response to diseases and natural catastrophes. Where it replaces reliance on polluting and dangerous fossil fuels or indoor cooking fuels, renewable energy can also improve health outcomes, which can in turn lessen the detrimental effects of air and water pollution on health
- However, attention must be given to project development by making efforts to foresee and manage potential project-related harm, such as by including health and safety performance requirements in procurement contracts, developing company health and safety policies

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

RES will require skilled employees, then promoting the development of education in developing countries

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

4.3 – Equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education

4.4 – Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success

4.5 – Eliminate all discrimination in education

4.7 – Education for sustainable development and global citizenship

4.A – Build and upgrade inclusive and safe schools

4.B – Expand higher education scholarship for developing countries

SDG impact

SDG description

- The key to sustainable development is having access to high-quality education for all people. Long-term development, civic and political dialogue, health, and peace and security of nations all depend on education. States must guarantee equal, accessible, and available education in order to uphold the human right to education
- While global education enrollment continues to increase, in 2021, 244 million children and adolescents between 6 and 17 still did not attend any type of school of education

The role of RES

– The most direct contribution of the renewable energy sector to SDG 4 will probably come from providing workforce training and electricity to enable students to study and attend classes at night. The workforce in the renewable energy industry is expanding quickly, and prospective employees require skill development in order to fill the demand for various positions in the industry. Businesses can directly support this capacity development by offering training programs. They can also work with colleges and universities to create curricula that would prepare students for renewable employment. Additionally, renewable energy firms can support SDG 4 by working with local authorities and the community to provide power to homes and schools, enhancing the learning environment

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

Independent and sustainable energy is key to develop resilient buildings and mobility in cities

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

- 11.1 – Safe and affordable housing
- 11.3 – Inclusive and sustainable urbanization
- 11.5 – Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters
- 11.6 – Reduce the environmental impact of cities
- 11.B – Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction

SDG impact

SDG description

- Goal 11 is about making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. One of the most important trends of the 20th century, urbanization will continue to influence how the globe is shaped in the 21st century. The UN predicts that by 2050, 68% of the world's population would live in urban settings, up from just 30% in 1950 and 55% in 2018
- Current infrastructure has been stressed by cities' rapid expansion: new major investments are required to develop cities in line with SDGs

The role of RES

- Sustainable cities of the future will depend heavily on renewable energy; in fact, more than 100 cities worldwide already get more than 70% of their energy from renewable sources, and another 70 have made the commitment to switch to 100% renewable energy. Especially if many of the current internal combustion engine vehicles on the road are eventually replaced with renewable-powered electric vehicles, such a transition will enhance the air quality in cities. Microgrids that use renewable energy can also increase the resilience and dependability of the grid. Municipal buildings may also be upgraded with onsite solar power systems that can send electricity back to the grid when there is an excess of supply
- Planning carefully for land use and searching for possibilities to work with utilities and governments to deploy renewable energy in cities are two ways that businesses may support SDG 11

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

In remote areas, RES projects will help promoting gender equality and inclusion

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

- 5.1 – End discrimination against women and girls
- 5.2 – End all violence against and exploitation of woman and girls
- 5.5 – Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making
- 5.A – Equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial services

SDG impact

SDG description

- Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Globally, injustice and inequality against women continue to seriously obstruct sustainable development. SDG 5 calls for the elimination of gender-based violence as well as the acquisition and use of productive assets, access to education, healthcare, and employment, as well as an equal voice in economic and political decision-making

The role of RES

- In locations where energy poverty disproportionately burdens women, the provision of clean energy can help to attain SDG 5. Companies that work in renewable energy can support gender equality by creating inclusive workplaces and recognizing and addressing gender-specific project consequences. The implementation of measures to achieve gender parity in employment and management positions as well as ensuring women's full and effective participation in project- and business-related decisions, including in community consultations and benefit-sharing agreements, are all part of these contributions

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

Renewable energy is key to ensure sustainable production and consumption

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

12.4 – Responsible management of chemicals and waste

12.6 – Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting

12.7 – Promote sustainable public procurement practices

12.8 – Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles

12.A – Support developing countries scientific and technological capacity for sustainable consumption and production

SDG impact

SDG description

- Goal 12 is about ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, which is key to sustain the livelihoods of current and future generations
- Human production and consumption are currently moving in a direction that is unsustainable. The World Wildlife Fund estimates that we use resources more than 50% more quickly than the earth can replace them. The widespread use of inefficient production methods and resource waste exacerbate unsustainable consumption and production patterns. For instance, 61% of the energy produced in the US in 2015 was wasted during transmission or transformation

The role of RES

- By generating energy from renewable sources instead of burning non-renewable fossil fuels, companies involved in renewable energy project can enhance the sustainability of production and consumption
- Moreover, because renewable energy can be produced in smaller, more localized units, transmission losses may be reduced, thus improving efficiency. However, the production of renewable energy technology also requires the usage of non-renewable resources. For this reason, developers and operators of renewable energy sources ought to promote ethical material sourcing in supply chains and launch technology recycling initiatives. Additionally, they should evaluate the viability of corporate operations and search for ways to boost efficiency

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

Renewable energy as a driver to Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

15.1 – Conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems

15.2 – End deforestation and restore degraded forests

15.3 – End desertification and restore degraded land

15.5 – Protect biodiversity and natural habitats

15.8 – Prevent invasive alien species on land and in water ecosystems

15.9 – Integrate ecosystems and biodiversity in governmental planning

SDG impact

SDG description

- According to UN estimates, 1.6 billion people rely on terrestrial ecosystems for their survival or way of life. Food, water, shelter, medicine, fuel, and revenue are all provided by forests. Despite slowing but not stopping the trend of ecological degradation, UN programs and agreements on deforestation, desertification, and biodiversity loss have made some progress. For the sake of species preservation, climate mitigation through carbon sequestration, and human prosperity, terrestrial ecosystem health is crucial

The role of RES

- The main duty of renewable energy firms in relation to SDG 15 is to make sure that project planning and execution do not endanger regional ecosystems. This entails using eco-friendly procedures and taking the environment into account while choosing a project's location
- Companies that produce renewable energy can collaborate with other stakeholders to sustainably manage land and protect ecosystems

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

Innovative projects promote a fair and transparent culture, based on human rights and ethical practices

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

16.1 – Reduce violence everywhere
16.3 – Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice
16.4 – Combat organized crime and illicit financial and arms flows
16.5 – Substantially reduce corruption and bribery
16.6 – Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions
16.7 – Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making
16.10 – Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms

SDG impact

SDG description

- Sustainable development requires accountable institutions as well as peaceful and just societies
- SDG 16 aims to reduce violence and lawlessness (including state violence and corruption) and to advance peace and justice for all by bolstering institutions and good governance standards. This is done in order to uphold human rights, advance the rule of law and access to justice, and protect human rights

The role of RES

- By anticipating and resolving project-related complaints and conflicts, as well as by encouraging an accountability culture both inside the business and in the larger societies in which it operates, renewable energy enterprises may support SDG 16
- This includes developing formal and accessible grievance channels, holding open and participatory community dialogues, and honoring communities' rights to tenure security and free, prior, and informed consent. Companies must ensure that workers uphold human rights, put best practices for ethical business conduct into practice, and encourage accountability for project-related consequences in order to support SDG 16. Companies should publicly disclose information about the project, including project-related payments and contracts, to support inclusive and transparent decision-making surrounding renewable energy initiatives and to deter corruption

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

Water quality and quantity are preserved thanks to a reduced amount of emissions and a less-intensive usage

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

6.1 – Safe and affordable drinking water
6.2 – End open defecation and provide access to sanitation and hygiene
6.3 – Improve water quality, wastewater treatment and safe reuse
6.4 – Increase water-use efficiency and ensure supplies
6.5 – Implement integrated water resources management
6.6 – Protect and restore water-related ecosystems
6.A – Expand water and sanitation support to developing countries
6.B – Support local engagement in water and sanitation management

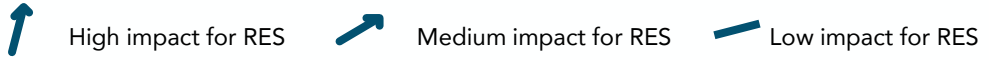
SDG impact

SDG description

- The fulfilment of other human rights, as well as the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, are intertwined with each other and with public health. However, supplying clean water for drinking and proper sanitization continues to be a serious development concern on a global scale. Currently, 2.1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water, and 4.5 billion people lack access to sanitation services that are properly managed

The role of RES

- While traditional fossil fuel energy sources, such as coal and oil, can require large amounts of water to act as working fluids in power plants or to aid in the extraction of hydrocarbons, some renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, allow for the generation of electricity in a much less water-intensive manner, renewable energy companies still need to monitor their impacts on local water systems and establish policies and practices for sustainable water use. Businesses should take into account community demands when siting projects and collaborate with locals to manage watersheds and track water quality



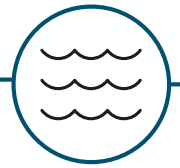
Renewable energy help to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

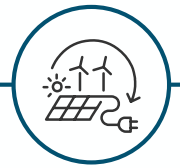
- 14.1 – Reduce marine pollution
- 14.2 – Protect and restore ecosystems
- 14.5 – Conserve coastal and marine areas
- 14.7 – Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources
- 14.B – Support small scale fishers

SDG impact



SDG description

- Goal 14 is about conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources
- More than 3 billion people, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. Thus, a key component of safeguarding and preserving these livelihoods is the sustainable preservation of marine habitats. Significant challenges to the health of the oceans include pollution, habitat degradation, and overfishing



The role of RES

– On aquatic ecosystems, different renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and hydro, can have a significant impact. By identifying marine-related consequences and mitigating techniques as well as helping the fishery industry to prevent displacement brought on by electricity generation, renewable energy firms must make sure that their projects do not jeopardize the sustainability of the maritime environment. Companies can collaborate with other stakeholders to create multi-stakeholder coastal management plans as well as with local government to create marine reserves and conservation areas. Finally, as deep-sea mining expands in response to rising demand for renewable energy technology, businesses should seek to ensure supply chain sustainability

High impact for RES Medium impact for RES Low impact for RES

Energy transition promotes stakeholders' engagement, involving both public authorities and private players

SDG and RES-related sub-categories

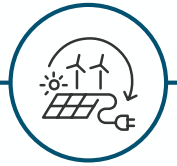
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- 17.3 – Mobilize financial resources for developing countries
- 17.6 – Knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation
- 17.7 – Promote sustainable technologies to developing countries
- 17.9 – Enhance SDG capacity in developing countries
- 17.16 – Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development
- 17.17 – Encourage effective partnerships

SDG impact

SDG description

- Successful collaborations are essential to achieving the SDGs
- Whether off-grid or on, renewable development projects demand that businesses establish trusting bonds with locals in order to protect human rights and obtain a social license to operate. Governments, utilities, and grid operators must work together to replace fossil fuels. Strong schools, workforce development, and relationships with local firms are necessary for maximizing the effects of economic development



The role of RES

- Future growth prospects for the renewable energy sector as a whole will be influenced by governmental partnerships and policies, corporate and public development financing, and the potential of technology advancements to keep bringing down the cost of renewable energy sources
- The renewable industry's contribution to the SDGs will fall short of its potential without multi-stakeholder cooperation

High impact for RES | Medium impact for RES | Low impact for RES

SDGs and Renewable energy sources: a connection to allow the world to grow

Expertise and capacity of the company can easily be used (and are being used) to support the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Companies may increase their positive contributions to the SDGs and make sure that contributions to some SDGs do not come at the price of others by further aligning their policies and practices with the Sustainable Development Agenda and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Companies should share best practices, take part in cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder conversations on the SDGs, and encourage peer companies and suppliers to embrace ethical business practices as nations and businesses continue to forge ahead with sustainable development.

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