



# The Sustainable Development Goals **SDG 7**

## *Ensure access to sustainable energy for all*

The year 2015 was key to building-up more sustainable societies, with the Paris Agreement on Climate established in December 2015 and the adoption by the United Nations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. These new development goals for the 2015-2030 period are taking over the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, period 2000-2015), with a more global approach.

The SDGs aim to provide a holistic response to the issues we collectively face, no matter that we live in a developed, developing or emerging country. The 17 objectives are complementary and cover a wide range of issues. Among the 17 SDGs, one focuses specifically on energy issues: the SDG 7 which aims to *“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”*.



*“Climate change is a global challenge that does not respect national borders. Emissions anywhere affect people everywhere. Affordable, scalable solutions are now available to enable countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies. The pace of change is quickening as more people are turning to renewable energy and a range of other measures that will reduce emissions and increase adaptation efforts.”*

Source: United Nations 2015, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>



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## SDG 7 “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”

Energy is a central issue to all SDGs, but the SD7 focuses specifically on access issues. In order to achieve SDGs and their linked objectives (jobs, climate change, security, food production...) access to energy is in fact indispensable. Promoting sustainable energy must also be seen as an opportunity to transform our lifestyles and our production and consumption patterns, towards more sustainable behaviors.

By 2030, the SDG 7 aims to “ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services » but also to “increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix”. The global rate of improvement in energy efficiency also figures among the targets fixed.



**Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

### Understand the issues

- **Almost 1.4 billion of people** still lacks access to modern electricity
- **3 billion people** rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating
- Energy is the **dominant contributor to climate change**, accounting for around 60 per cent of total global greenhouse gas emissions
- **Reducing the carbon intensity** of energy is a key objective in long-term climate goals.

Source: United Nations, SDG 7, Keys and figures on energy in the world  
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>

## Implementation

For the implementation, the SDG 7 aims to enhance international cooperation, specifically regarding research on clean energy technology. In addition, still focusing on the international aspects of this matter, the SDG 7 aims to “expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all”.

Finally, the SDG 7 promotes international cooperation in favour of “developing countries, in particular least developed countries, Small Island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of development”.

**What you should retain: whether it is for SDG7 or for the SDG programme as a whole, the success of this great collective dynamic cannot be achieved without each citizen’s and stakeholder’s involvement and without a deep change in our consumption and production patterns.**

To go further (references):

United Nations, 2015, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, p. 16 (SDG 7)

[http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815\\_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf](http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf)

ENERGIES 2050, 2016, *Sustainable Development Goals, a guide for citizens*

<http://energies2050.org/2016/11/23/les-guides-pour-agir-3-les-objectifs-de-developpement-durable/>