



Global Lighting and Energy Access Partnership (Global LEAP) Invitation to Membership

The UN Sustainable Energy for All initiative is looking for those who wish to collaborate toward increasing modern energy access worldwide by supporting sustainable commercial markets for affordable, quality-assured off-grid energy and lighting products and services. Global LEAP is a voluntary forum that brings together governments, the private sector, and development partners to share knowledge and best practices under a set of commonly held principles to encourage self-sustaining commercial markets for energy access solutions. This document lays out the principles and parameters that members subscribe to when joining Global LEAP.



Principles of Global LEAP

Global LEAP members share a commitment to the following guiding principles:

- The goal of energy access for all by 2030 as articulated by the UN-led Sustainable Energy for All campaign is achievable; access to modern energy exists along a continuum that begins at the household level with basic energy services related to lighting, cooking, and communication, and also includes energy for economically productive agricultural and commercial activities.
- Affordable, quality-assured energy products and services are important to support socioeconomic development and improved quality of life for the more than one billion people worldwide who lack access to modern energy.
- Commercial markets offer an opportunity to complement public sector-led efforts at electrification because they leverage private investments and frequently offer quick and scalable means for improving access to energy.
- Delivery approaches should strive to be self-sustaining, which means that subsidies—when used at all—should be carefully tailored to focus on those markets or market segments that are not immediately commercially viable (e.g., the poorest and most remote areas) and designed to minimize distortions to commercial markets.
- There is a need for activities that address key market barriers, such as buyer access to information about product quality and access to finance across the supply chain, in order to bring more affordable products to market faster.
- There is a need to build capacity and to develop and evaluate alternative business models aimed at delivering modern energy access to a diverse set of end users.
- There is a need to integrate energy efficiency principles into the design and implementation of all projects, because the energy saved can reduce costs (thereby increasing the affordability of energy access) and free up additional energy for productive purposes.

- Quality assurance programs are generally most effective when implemented through performance-based approaches that are broadly harmonized and coordinated internationally. Programs should seek to ensure quality over the lifetime of the system and promote sustainability and longevity at all points along the supply chain.
- The creation of enabling environments for the private sector is a cost-effective way to complement government electrification programs by leveraging additional investments and catalyzing the development of diverse innovative solutions.
- It is essential that companies and projects adhere to high environmental and social standards.
- It is essential for the creation of commercial markets to avoid activities that undermine transparency or open competition or that constitute a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof.
- There is value in coordinating and streamlining program activities to promote common goals and avoid duplication.

Benefits to Member Participation

- Opportunities to highlight to governments, foundations, and other stakeholders the potential for well-designed programs to rapidly improve energy access by supporting self-sustaining commercial channels.
- Forum for public-private dialogue to identify enabling environment reforms that advance commercial energy access solutions.
- Regular access to a network of committed actors that share similar objectives and principles, which allows for coordinated common approaches and structured learning by doing.
- Opportunities to create joint projects via this platform.
- Quarterly calls and an annual strategic discussion (provisionally on the margins of a Clean Energy Ministerial) to share best practices and align strategies, as appropriate.
- Global LEAP was launched by ten initial members on 26 April 2012 in London during a joint press conference for the Clean Energy Ministerial and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.
- Initial members include the U.S. Department of Energy; Italy's Ministry of Land and Sea; the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation; the UN Foundation; the Energy and Resources Institute; the African Development Bank; the Global Environment Facility; the UN Development Program; and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry.
- Global LEAP hopes that financial and other commitments will be made by members or others for projects and activities aligned with the principles outlined above.
- Expansion of Global LEAP will be determined by consensus of the existing membership.
- Global LEAP is a group of members interested in promoting the principles set forth above. It is not a legal entity, and there is no intention among its members that a partnership, joint venture, or any other legal relationship between them be created. Nothing in this statement of principles shall be construed as creating legal rights and obligations or any commitments. Global LEAP will not directly manage funds or operations, but rather will serve as a forum for sharing best practices and aligning strategies, as appropriate. It has no offices or dedicated staff.

Parameters for Membership

- Members may include governments, donors, and select implementing organizations.
- Where interested, other actors (e.g., universities, companies, nongovernmental organizations, associations, and others) may request to be publicly recognized as supporters of the principles.
- The World Bank Group will serve as an informal secretariat, including convening working groups and discussions among members. The World Bank Group would also seek to bolster its related programmatic efforts aligned with these principles, including Lighting Africa and Lighting India. Other entities that manage their own programs in line with these principles would also be welcomed as members.
- Members may reference Global LEAP in activities that are consistent with the principles after gaining consent in advance from the other members.
- Members may exit Global LEAP at any time by notifying the group.