

G8 Renewable Energy Taskforce Report – summary of key recommendations

The G8 Renewable Energy Taskforce report, July 2001, was co-authored by Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, former head of Shell, and Dr Corrado Clini, head of the Italian Environment Ministry, at the request of G8 governments. It was charged with reporting on the barriers to renewable energy uptake, and solutions to those. Key recommendations to achieve the goal of supplying one billion people with renewable energy within a decade were identified in four areas; these involve action by both government and industry:

Reduce technology costs by expanding markets, including:

- Government and industry implement existing and proposed national plans to expand domestic renewable energy markets in order to drive down costs and underpin the development of markets in developing countries
- Government work with International Financial Institutions to develop well-defined 'smart subsidy' programmes (temporary and performance based) to place more resources with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) that can be accessed by private sector project developers on a cost-shared basis
- Government-private sector voluntary global commitment for the use of renewable energy by multinational corporations in their operations.

Build a strong market environment, including:

- strengthen institutional capacity in developing countries to support the development of comprehensive national renewable energy strategies with complementary private sector investment programmes. In sustainable development, power sector reform and other relevant national processes
- Government and industry, *on an expedited basis*, provide support to renewable energy industries for the creation of joint ventures and other manufacturing, assembly etc capabilities in developing countries
- Government expand scope, visibility and funding of innovative approaches that are currently assisting in the development of RE markets in developing countries

Mobilise financing, including:

- Government work on the integration of renewable energy into International Development Goals, including annual reporting on relative financial flows and donor assistance patterns to support renewable energy, and requiring ODA, bi- and multi-lateral agencies to explicitly consider renewables
- Export Credit Agencies (eg ECGD) should extend 'sector arrangements' for other energy lending to renewable energy, could include minimum standards for energy efficiency, carbon intensity (or renewable energy obligations)
- Government call for proposals to mobilise 'patient capital' from industry and private financiers through appropriate tax and other support schemes

Encourage market-based mechanisms, including:

- Work with the International Energy Agency to evaluate the benefits of renewable certificate trading schemes and the assess benefits of enhanced international collaboration
- Government support development of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM, of the Kyoto Protocol) emissions trading that is conducive specifically for renewable energy
- Government take steps to remove subsidies and incentives for environmentally harmful energy technologies

A full copy of the G8 Renewable Energy Taskforce report can be downloaded www.renewabletaskforce.org