MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST

UNDP/BGD/96/007

Sustainable Environment Management Programme [SEMP]

Renewable Energy Information Network
http://www.lged-rein.org

Sustainable Rural Energy (SRE)

Local Government Engineering Department

Energy and Sustainable Development

Energy is central to concerns about sustainable development and poverty reduction. It affects practically all aspects of social and economic development, including livelihoods, water, agriculture, population, health, education, job creation, and gender issues.

10 kw Micro Hydro Power Unit, Bamerchara, Banshkhali, Chittagong

Energy is an important entry point for achieving the goals of all three of the pillars of sustainable development: social equity, economic growth and environmental protection. Worldwide two billion people lack access to electricity and almost as many rely on traditional fuels to meet their daily needs. Cooking with inefficient stoves causes about 2 million premature deaths annually. Millions of people mostly women and children spend many hours a day hauling water and gathering fuels which restrict their pursuit of educational and income generating opportunities. In addition, high levels of local air pollution, soil and water acidification: and_greenhouse gas emissions are directly associated with the outputs from current energy systems.

In order to achieve sustainable development objectives, conventional approaches to energy must be reoriented toward the promotion of energy systems based on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, which will make it possible to address social, economic, and environmental concerns simultaneously.

What is Renewable Energy ?

Energy obtained from sources that are essentially inexhaustible. Renewable sources of energy include hydro, waste, geothermal, wind, solar tidal and wave. These energy sources produces low emission of green house gases and hence environmentally friendly.

Why it is important trying to harness Renewable Energy ?

Renewable energy is clean and good for the environment. Energy from fossil fuel based and nuclear power plants produce emissions including long lived radioactive wastes, greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, including those responsible for acid rain.

About 70% of the total population does not have access to electricity. A major portion of the population, located in off grid areas, will not be able to get electricity in the foreseeable future due to several constraints, including low consumer density and inaccessibility. For these areas, harnessing renewable energy is cost effective and often, the best option.

Renewable energy systems provide home or business with increased independence. They also will reduce our energy imports and save valuable foreign currency which can be spent on other compelling uses.

In the new century and millennium modern societies are ready to reduce the searching for, retrieving, processing and transporting nonrenewable can increase efforts devoted to the sustainable harvesting, Biomass based energy, etc.

Government, semi-government organizations, educational institutes, different national and regional NGOs are all involved in efforts to enhance Bangladesh's renewable energy capabilities and capacities. Modern and new RETs are mostly in the dissemination and demonstration phase in Bangladesh.

Projects by Government and Semi-government organizations:

- Sustainable Rural Energy, Local Government Engineering Department
- Diffusion of Renewable Energy Technologies Project by REB
- Chittagong Hill Tracts Solar Electrification Project by BPDB

Projects by major Educational Institutions :

- Dissemination and R & D on RETs by Renewable Energy Research Centre(RERC)
- RET R & D Program of Centre for Energy Studies (CES), BUET

Projects by some of NGO's, Private sector stakeholders:

- RET Programs of Grameen Shakti
- Renewable Energy Program of BRAC
- Prakaushali Sangsad Ltd.
- Dissemination Program of CMES (Rural Market Electrification)
- Thangamara Mohila Sobuj Shangha(TMSS)
- Coast Trust
- **{** HYPERLINK "file:///D:\\Portal\\stakeholders\\ret_org.htm" \l "srizani#srizani" **}**
- Thangamara Mohila Sobuj Shangha(TMSS)
- Shubashati

Projects funded by Multi-lateral and Bi-lateral development partners

- Sustainable Rural Energy (SRE) Project by UNDP
- RET's in Asia Program by SIDA
- Opportunity For Women In RET Utilization In Bangladesh by ESMAP
- BUET- Loughborough University Higher Education Link Project by DFID
- Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment Project by GEF/UNEP
- Promotion of Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Abatement (PREGA) Project by ADB
- Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Project (60,000 SHS within 2007) by GEF/World Bank
- Promotion of Renewable Energy in Selected Rural Areas of Bangladesh by GTZ.

10 kwp Wind –Solar Hybrid System at St. Martins Island

Reneable Energy Information Netwrok

One of the main barriers prevailing renewable energy technologies introduction in Bangladesh is the information barrier. Decision makers, educational institutions and local companies have so far little or no access to information about Renewable Energy (RE), their prospects, economics and technology. The Renewable Energy Information Network (REIN), being implemented under the Sustainable Rural Energy (SRE) project funded by UNDP and executed by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), aims to remove the aforementioned barrier through an information platform with a comprehensive scope and long-term perspective.

REIN functions through it's web-based interface with renewable energy related information tailored specifically to meet the needs of the general public, enthusiasts, energy planners, project developers, researchers, entrepreneurs, students and all other relevant organizations & institutions in developing renewable energy projects and promotion of renewable energy utilization in Bangladesh. Overall structure of the activities within REIN being modular in nature. It provides interactive interface to allow parallel and independent development and wider participation within the same framework. Maintenance of information database, and the network, offers parallel operational activities. It is expected that especially educational institutes can immensely benefit from the information services provided by REIN.

We Need to act fast and now

Whereas we live amidst present and clear danger of 'Green House Effect', which could simply destroy whatever we have achieved in the past, there is hope. The hope, the only hope, is YOU!

We must take positive action to reduce unnecessary consumption of energy, support policies encouraging renewable energy, and join our minds together to find out ways to make use of greener energy sources.

To support your activities, we at REIN have assembled a wealth of information ranging from how you can make use of Renewable Energy in your home or business to who can help you with the technology, finance or research.

The web site has case studies of people/organizations who have successfully utilized renewable energy and thereby contributing to a better future for themselves and for you too. However, all our effort can only contribute to the ongoing movement towards green energy only if you take advantage of it and put them to use.

We are updating the site almost every week to incorporate new information, innovation, and stories of astounding successes, reported, in many cases, by our visitors from all across the globe.

Now its time that you visit the site, send us a feedback so that we can incorporate the information that you need to make use of it.

Information Available on the Website:

- Renewable Energy Resources in Bangladesh
- Major Renewable Energy Intervention by the different energy players
- Renewable Energy Study papers, learning tools
- Latest Research & Development (R&D) on Renewable Energy Technology
- List of Stakeholders/Energy Players
- List of RET Specialist working with Renewable Energy
- Renewable Energy related Product Data information
- Renewable Energy related Links
- Conventional Energy related information

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