



## **FACT SHEET: CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS CENTERS**

At the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C. on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, ministers launched an initiative to support developing countries in their efforts to implement clean energy policies and programs through the creation of **Clean Energy Solution Centers** – virtual networks of experts and world-class online tools. The initiative will initially be funded by at least US\$50 million in contributions over five years, one-third of which represents new pledges.

The Clean Energy Solutions Centers will help governments of developing countries, with a focus on major economies, drive transformational low-carbon technologies by identifying and sharing best-practice policies, providing the market with information on emerging policy trends, and identifying opportunities for policy coordination across countries. The Solutions Centers are to serve as a virtual clearing house for policy information, supporting a network of at least 100 policy and technology experts. By leveraging the information and professional assistance available through the Solutions Centers, governments will be able to compare existing national policies, identify global best practices, and customize them to fit national circumstances. The Solutions Centers will also benefit clean energy entrepreneurs, engineers, and investors by affording them better access to information about policy developments, and therefore facilitating development and delivery of technology solutions faster and at a lower cost.

Smart clean energy policy can improve energy security, reduce pollution, save money for households and businesses, and promote sustainable economic growth and development. Countries around the world are seeking to capture these benefits through national action, reviewing existing policies and implementing a range of new initiatives. This diverse and evolving clean energy policy landscape creates opportunities for countries to innovate and learn from each others' experience.

Prior to the second Clean Energy Ministerial in early 2011, and as part of the Global Energy Efficiency Challenge, participating countries and partners plan to engage in an active dialogue to identify smart policies to unlock the tremendous worldwide potential for clean energy, focusing initially on energy efficiency. This dialogue should also inform selection of experts and technical resources to form the backbone of the Solutions Centers. In addition, participants plan to work to develop toolkits to support the Clean Energy Solutions Centers. The dialogue is open to all governments participating in the Clean Energy Ministerial and other relevant stakeholders willing to consider making substantial in-kind or financial contributions. Over time, once the initial Energy Efficiency Solutions Center has been launched, the focus of the policy and technology expertise and toolkits is intended to expand beyond energy efficiency to encompass the full range of clean energy solutions.

The Solutions Centers will benefit from, and build upon, existing capabilities within participating entities. For example, in the context of its work on the Low-Carbon Energy Technology Platform (LETP), the International Energy Agency will support the independent Solutions Centers by creating and maintaining a searchable web-based database of national clean energy policy frameworks. In addition, as appropriate, ClimateWorks will share their perspectives on effective clean energy policies and toolkits to inform the dialogue.

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*Participants as of July 20, 2010*

Participating governments include Australia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. Other initial partners include the ClimateWorks Foundation and the International Energy Agency (IEA). The initial funds include commitments from the United States (US\$37M), ClimateWorks (US\$10M), Australia (AUD\$5M), and Italy, a large majority of which is expected to be programmed in part based on insight from this dialogue, bearing in mind that each specific donor shall retain final authority over its resources.