

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

We present to you the first issue of CLEAN Digest, a quarterly newsletter that will highlight the contribution of the decentralized clean energy (DCE) sector in the enterprise of nation building. While we continue to survive and grow through different challenges as a sector, we hope that there is realization that bigger and centralized solutions are not always ideal ways to address the energy crisis that the country has faced since Independence.

The challenges of distributing centralized power in a country like India are significant even if one discounts the enormous problem that state distribution companies are facing – the inability to buy power from underutilized utilities. Are off-grid renewable solutions only an interim answer as many, especially the energy rich, seem to believe? It is an indefatigable 'NO' if one looks at the history of energy and access in the last few decades of rapid growth in generation and usage. Moreover, the economics of real costs of energy increasingly seems to be favoring off-grid energy.

In the quest for 24/7 electricity access to all households, DCE enterprises and members of CLEAN want to be seen as working with the state rather than working independently or in the sidelines. We hope that the quarterly CLEAN digest through its news, information and positive stories from the field will help the off grid sector grow to its real potential.

Ashis Kumar Sahu

CLEAN EVENTS

BANKERS' MEETING

CLEAN in collaboration with GIZ India is organizing a workshop on Decentralized Renewable Energy Financing under Priority Sector Lending at India Habitat Centre on the 10th of July in New Delhi. The objective of the workshop is to encourage bankers to continue financing solar projects beyond the discontinuation of the NABARD capital subsidy earlier this year by showcasing the credibility of DCE enterprises and projects.

Please Mail: devmalyo@thecleannetwork.org

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP IN THE SECTOR

CLEAN will host a three day residential workshop to address capacity building issues for managerial staff of its member organizations as part of its mandate on skill building. The workshop will be held from the 26th to the 28th of August.

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1ST INDIA OFF-GRID ENERGY SUMMIT 2015

The Climate Group in association with MNRE, CLEAN and StANCE, will host the first India Off-grid Energy Summit on August 19th and 20th, 2015 in New Delhi. Bringing together diverse participants from practitioners to investors and funders, we will discuss how to work within the larger renewable energy framework of the Government of India to deliver a collective roadmap for the future of off-grid energy in India.

You can register online here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rgFOxRuQqbmFPzpsjh7g3qNM02Bwa4K7FRLXQNAcKXk/viewform>





CLEAN COMMITS TO SE4ALL GOALS

The CEO of CLEAN, Ashis Kumar Sahu participated in the 2nd Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) forum in New York City in May 2015 and shared the work that CLEAN is doing to achieve the UN's developmental goal of universal energy access by 2030 at the UN General Assembly Hall.

The SE4All Forum brings together reputed stakeholders from around the globe once a year to share the progress they have made and to and renew their commitment to the cause of clean energy access. Highlights of the event are here:

<http://www.iisd.ca/energy/se4allforum/2015/19may.html>

A DIRECTORY OF OUR OWN A REPOSITORY FOR THE OFF-GRID SECTOR

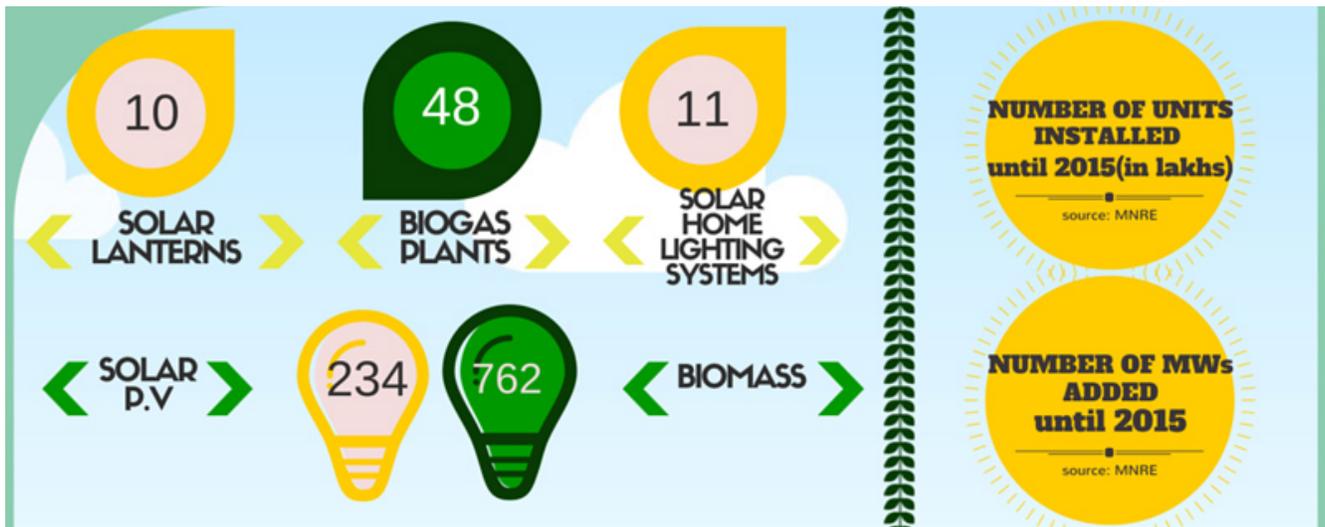
One of CLEAN's critical objectives is to provide networking and information services to our members as well as the decentralized clean energy sector in general. We took a significant step in this direction when we launched the CLEAN industry directory on our website replete with more than 400 entries of organizations working in the sector in India. Data was collected on parameters like organizational specialization, their geographical spread, the clean energy technology they work with and their contact details. We are currently working on expanding the database and making it even more comprehensive. Do take a look: <http://thecleannetwork.org/directory.aspx>

SETTING AN AGENDA BY THE MEMBERS, FOR THE MEMBERS

In keeping with the philosophy of being a bottom-up, member driven organization. CLEAN has divided its members into eight sub-groups- four related to its focus areas of policy, financing, skills and technology standardization and four related to the energy technologies-solar standalone systems, community systems, bioenergy and all other technologies. A chair for each sub-group will be elected by members. We believe that members' participation in these sub-groups will drive the agenda that CLEAN will take up on their behalf thereby ensuring optimum overlap of interest and relevance.

INDUSTRY NEWS

A look at the total installed capacity of off-grid energy applications in India till 2015





RBI approves priority status upgrade for renewable energy

In a decision that was welcomed by clean energy stakeholders across India, the Reserve Bank of India has accorded priority sector lending status for renewable energy in line with the Govt's thinking on the subject. Projects up to Rs 15 crores for solar energy and biomass energy, wind mills, micro hydro projects etc will be considered under this scheme. The maximum loan amount eligible is Rs 10 lakh for individual households. Since banks have to set aside 40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit for priority sectors, the policy will ease financing worries of small and medium enterprises.

Working in the clean energy sector? Welcome to the 7.7 million club

There are more than 7.7 million people worldwide that are now employed by the renewable energy industry, according to a new report released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). This year saw an 18 per cent increase from last year's figure of 6.5 million. IRENA Director-General Adnan Z. Amin said, "This increase...[in employment] is being driven, in part, by declining renewable energy technology costs, which creates more jobs in installation, operations and maintenance." India ranks fourth among countries who are the largest renewable energy employers. The employment increase spreads across the renewable energy spectrum with solar, wind, biofuels, biomass, biogas and small hydropower said Mr. Amin. "IRENA's research estimates that doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030 would result in more than 16 million jobs worldwide."



MEMBER FOCUS

BOOND

Of health and happiness



Enabling energy access is not just an end in itself but can be the means to unlocking access to a better quality of life whether it's in terms of the number of extra hours a child can devote to her school work or in terms of the amount of smoke averted from the lungs of the household cook. The work of CLEAN member, Boond Engineering and Development Ltd in the hilly, sparsely populated terrain of Bedawal block in Udaipur is a testament to this. Aajeevika Bureau, an NGO that works to secure improved outcomes for migrant workers in healthcare, financial inclusion, skill development and so on, operates a clinic here that runs on erratic supply of electricity. They commissioned a solar panel vendor address this issue and become more energy secure only to find that the panels as well as the installation were below par. It was only after they issued fresh tenders to take up the work again that Boond was selected as the contractor.

After surveying the specific needs of the clinic and its energy consumption, the Boond team led by CTO, Simran Grover, set about installing a 1 kW system in April of 2015. As the panel installations were under way on the terrace, I took the opportunity to look inside the clinic. While a nurse was giving away medicines and updating paper work, a one day old mother and her newborn were resting in the maternity ward fitted with an incubator, a sight to behold for sore, desert-dried eyes. Her relatives stood around the room, quietly soaking in the serenity of the moment with me. It's times like these that



illuminate the relevance of off-grid energy solutions in the will to build a more equitable world and take their impact far beyond utility provisioning.

Asha Jyothi

NEW MEMBERS LIST

ANTHROPOWER AURORE ATLANTA ENERGY BOOND ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT PVT LTD BRIGHT SOLAR	FRONTIER MARKETS GAUTAM SOLAR GRAM OORJA GSES INDIA GTNFW - SEWA	OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION ONERGY POLLINATE ENERGY PRAKRUTI RENEWABLE POWER PVT LTD.
CLARO ENERGY D.LIGHT DHARMA LIFE E HANDS ENERGY	HUSK POWER SYSTEMS IT POWER CONSULTING PVT LTD LUMETER NETWORKS MANGAAL SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS PVT. LTD.	SELCO INDIA PVT LTD SIMPA NETWORKS SPECTRUM RENEWABLE ENERGY PVT. LTD. SUNIPOD
EASTERN ENVO PROTECT EMERGENCE BIOENERGY FREE POWER TECHNOLOGIES	MERA GAO POWER MLINDA FOUNDATION NBIRT NERD SOCIETY COIMABTORE	SUN SALUTER SURE INDIA PVT LTD SUSTAINTECH SWITCHON VOLKSENERGIE

INDUSTRY JOBS

Mangaal Sustainable Solutions Pvt. Ltd. - Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Pollinate Energy - City Cofounder and Senior Sales Manager

Pollinate Energy - Manager - New Product Sales

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MONTHLY POLL

How do you think the work that off-grid players are doing can complement grid extension policies of the Indian government?

[Click the link to submit your answer](#)



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