

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY TO MARCH 2025



FORGING NEW PATHWAYS FOR GROWTH, COLLABORATION, AND INNOVATION

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Dear CLEAN Members and Friends, It is with great pride and optimism that I address you through this first edition of our quarterly newsletter in 2025.

Together, we are setting the stage for stronger collaboration, innovation, and market development.

Over the past few months, through a series of regional meetings, webinars, in-person workshops, and even podcasts, we have been able to bring together the diverse strengths of our network – connecting members, sharing best practices, and uncovering new business opportunities.

Our focus remains clear: enabling markets and businesses to thrive. We are identifying and developing opportunities such as diesel replacement solutions for small and medium-scale industries, and promoting Energy-as-a-Service models in multiple sectors. CLEAN is also working towards empowering clean energy integration across rural value chains and advancing electric mobility initiatives.

We are actively forging collaborations, especially in the realm of South-South cooperation, to help members innovate and unlock opportunities not only in India but also across South East Asia and Africa.

As an industry body, CLEAN's strength lies in the collaboration, experience, and expertise of its members. Each of you, with your deep experience and decades of work in the clean energy space, holds the key to scaling solutions and building a more resilient and inclusive sector.

Together, we can shape new pathways for sustainable growth, deepen the impact of clean energy solutions, and make India a global leader in decentralized clean energy access.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.

NEW MEMBERS



Anand Electronics



NANGIA & CO LLP



Key DRE Budget Highlight

- PM Surya Ghar Yojana - ₹10,000 crore (2025-26): Install rooftop solar panels for 1 crore rural homes, offering 300 units of free electricity monthly.
- PM-KUSUM - ₹2,600 crore (2025-26): Solarize farm pumps and grids to cut diesel use.
- PM Vishwakarma Yojana - ₹13,000 crore (2023-28): Train and support rural artisans across 18 traditional trades.
- PM FME Scheme - ₹2,000 crore (2025-26): Modernize micro food processing units under "One District One Product."
- Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission - ₹380.4 crore (2025-26): Boost tribal entrepreneurship, skilling, and value chains.
- Silk Samagra-2 - ₹4,679.86 crore (2021-26): Upgrade sericulture through training, R&D, and infrastructure.
- Electric Mobility Infrastructure - ₹30,000 crore (2025-26): Expand EV charging and battery swapping in rural and peri-urban areas.

REGIONAL MEETS AND WORKSHOPS



NCR Region Meet, 06th Jan 2025, New Delhi

The meeting brought together key stakeholders to deliberate on strategic issues in the DRE sector. Here, Inficold discussed leveraging public funds like Diesel Cess and DMF. Discussions emphasized CLEAN's evolving role in product quality monitoring, sector data aggregation, and capacity building for state officials, particularly in Odisha and Meghalaya; and enhancing engagement with funders including NABARD were discussed. GIZ confirmed support for integrating the IREAP portal with GEM.

NER Region Meet- 22nd January 2025, Guwahati

The meeting had focused discussions round collaborative strategies, challenges faced by members, and regional opportunities for clean energy initiatives. Representatives from UNDP and TERI shared valuable insights and details about the Small Grant Program, aimed at supporting innovative clean energy projects in the Northeast. One of the ask was to conduct a Proposal Writing Training for the members.



Western Region Meet - 21st Feb 2025, Pune

The meeting focused on scaling member projects, improving access to CSR and government funds, and developing tools like a project dashboard. Members emphasized biogas market development, policy advocacy, testing infrastructure, and the need for training and proposal workshops. Integration of DRE in urban planning and stronger collaboration with GOGLA were also suggested.

PROPOSAL WRITING & GRANT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



The two-day Proposal Writing and Grant Management Workshop was hosted at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), tailored for CLEAN (Clean Energy Access Network) members and organizations advancing Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) in Northeast India. Participants explored the climate finance landscape, learned to craft compelling proposals using the Theory of Change framework, integrated AI-powered communication tools, and deepened their understanding of grant compliance and reporting. The workshop was enriched by expert trainers from IITG, INECC (Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change), and GIZ India (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), whose guidance made it a truly insightful and engaging experience.

The State-level Eri silk workshop in Shillong, organized by Customized Energy Solutions, Meghalaya Basin Management Authority, CLEAN Energy Access Network and UNDP, brought together stakeholders to strengthen the Eri silk value chain through distributed renewable energy (DRE) solutions. A roadmap is being developed to increase cocoon production to 100 kg per household by deploying climate-controlled rearing facilities and promoting sustainable feed production. By 2025-29, the goal is to triple the sector's GDP contribution and create 100,000 jobs through scaling and branding efforts.

SILK LINK WORKSHOP





04 Episodes Launched



1 From mini- GRIDS to GROWTH - Shelly Kerketta, MLINDA Charitable Trust

Shelly Kerketta shares insights from MLINDA's work in Jharkhand's Gumla and Latehar districts, where clean energy solutions are enabling women to lead green enterprises. The discussion highlights the role of DRE in strengthening rural value chains and building community resilience.



2 Off-Grid, On Track: Gram Oorja's Energy Innovations - Anshuman Lath, Gram Oorja

With over a decade of experience, Gram Oorja has brought decentralized energy solutions to remote villages across India. This episode explores community-owned solar microgrids, biogas, and water systems, and dives into the challenges and opportunities in scaling rural electrification.



3 The Investor's Lens: What Makes a Social Enterprise Scalable? - Anuj Sharma, Alsisar Impact

Anuj Sharma discusses India's evolving impact investment landscape and what it takes for social enterprises to scale. Key themes include investor expectations, the role of mentorship and networks, and how platforms like CES CAREs support startups in the clean energy space.



4 From Access to Adoption: The Future of Clean Cooking in India - Ketaki Kokil, Ecosense Appliances

Despite increased access, the adoption of clean cooking remains uneven. Ketaki Kokil reflects on Ecosense's experience and shares strategies to ensure consistent use, including user-centric design, behavior change interventions, and ecosystem-level support.



WEBINARS

Webinar on Solar Celebration of Makar Sankranti

CLEAN organised its first webinar of 2025 on 10 Jan 2025. This was to give information about an interesting solar cooking festival taking place from 14 Jan (Sankranti) to 4 Feb (Rathsaptami).

Webinar on Energy Access Explorer (EAE)



CLEAN hosted a webinar on 13th Feb featuring WRI India experts Akansha Saklani and Dr. Shikha Anand, introducing the Energy Access Explorer (EAE)—a powerful digital tool that maps energy access gaps and supports data-driven decisions for sustainable energy transitions and socio-economic development.

COLLABORATIONS



In the Move For Earth Symposium, organised by the SwitchOn Foundation and the EarthOn Foundation, this roundtable co-hosted by CLEAN, highlighted how DRE solutions like solar irrigation and cold storage are driving agricultural productivity, reducing costs, and strengthening climate resilience. With valuable insights from Jeevan Kumar Jethani (Sr. Director, MNRE) and Bipin Bihari (CEO, FDRVC), the discussion focused on policies, financing, and inclusive models for scaling sustainable agriculture. Key takeaways included the need for integrated and locally tailored DRE systems, block-level implementation, clear financing frameworks, and cross-sector collaboration backed by local capacity and data-driven narratives.

Turning Waste into Wealth: The Vaayumitra Story



Headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra, Vaayumitra is transforming the way urban India handles organic waste. Operating primarily across Maharashtra, the enterprise designs and deploys small-scale biogas plants that convert food waste into clean, usable cooking gas. With over 400 units installed, Vaayumitra processed 2,000-2,500 tonnes of organic waste annually—saving the equivalent of 7,000 LPG cylinders (19kg) each year. This decentralized solution addresses a pressing urban challenge: of managing of food waste, which often ends up unmanaged in cities. Waste management is cumbersome, trapping waste pickers in unsafe, low-pay jobs with minimal prospects.

Vaayumitra's approach bridges this gap with innovation and inclusion. Their compact biogas plants convert household or commercial food waste at the source, eliminating the need for transport, reducing landfill dependency, and cutting methane emissions. Beyond clean energy, the model delivers social equity—waste pickers are upskilled to operate and maintain these systems, evolving into clean energy professionals and increasing their monthly income by ₹7,000. So far, 25 jobs have been created through this initiative. With strong potential among corporates, canteens, hospitality businesses, and eco-conscious urban homes, Vaayumitra is not only democratizing access to renewable fuel but also pioneering a zero-waste, circular economy model rooted in inclusive growth.



Reviving Tradition, Empowering Communities: The Bodoland Development Foundation Story

Established on August 16, 2021, the Bodoland Development Foundation (BDF) envisions a self-reliant, sustainable, and dignified society in the Bodoland Territorial Region of Assam, focusing on the Udalguri district. One of the pressing challenges BDF identified was the decline of traditional Eri spinning, a cultural and economic lifeline for tribal communities. Manual and labor-intensive, traditional spinning methods are no longer economically viable. Lack of access to modern tools, limited market linkages, and disinterest among youth have further endangered this art form

BDF's innovative response: solar-powered Eri spinning machines. By introducing over 50 solar-driven units to local weavers, BDF has enhanced both productivity and profitability in the Eri industry. Weavers now produce 30-40% more yarn and can work 6-8 hours daily with uninterrupted, renewable power. This clean energy solution not only preserves a cultural heritage but also supports India's transition to sustainable energy. The Foundation's unique strength lies in fusing tradition with technology—reviving livelihoods, empowering women, and attracting younger generations back to the craft. By enabling eco-friendly production and stable incomes, BDF is creating a ripple effect of development, resilience, and dignity across rural Assam.



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