

Off-grid Access to Energy: The Mobilisation of the French Sector

Since 2018, the French Agency for Ecological Transition ([ADEME](#)) and the French Renewable Energy Trade Association ([SER](#)) have co-led a national working group gathering more than a hundred energy access French stakeholders (public agencies, private companies, associations and NGOs, researchers, French regions, etc.) to accelerate the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG-7) and ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. In October 2020, the working group published its first deliverables: [a white paper on off-grid access to renewable energy](#) and a [brochure presenting the French know-how in this field](#) that will be regularly updated.

Considering the challenges encountered by French stakeholders during the implementation of off-grids projects in Africa, South-East Asia or Latin America, the working group identified four thematic areas in which improvements are needed to facilitate the development of projects: legal and regulatory matters, cooperation amongst different actors, innovation and financing. Then, it drew up a set of recommendations to tackle these obstacles and highlighted **15 priority measures** to be implemented as soon as possible if we want to achieve SDG-7. These recommendations are addressed to several stakeholders: governments, development and commercial banks, national agencies, local authorities, the private sector and NGOs. Furthermore, since the energy access sector has been severely affected by the global health crisis caused by the covid-19 pandemic, the white paper includes a dedicated chapter to improve the sector's resilience and limit the impacts of the crisis on electrification rates. In such a difficult context, access to sustainable energy should be considered and promoted as a priority and essential service, strictly linked to social and economic development.

ADEME is pleased to announce that the English version of the white paper will be presented and discussed at the 6th ARE Energy Access Investment Forum, with a particular focus on some of its key recommendations, during session 1.

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