

## GFSE Newsletter

Dear Friends of GFSE,

We are pleased to send you our June 2024 edition of the GFSE newsletter, containing updates, important events, and news from stakeholders working towards gender equality and value chains in energy sector. In cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences – Campus Vienna, GFSE will be hosting an event dedicated to green skills in the building sector on May 2nd 2024 (17:00-19:30).

Enjoy reading!

The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy

### 1. GFSE Event on Green Skills in the Sustainable Building Sector

In collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences – Campus Vienna, GFSE held the event **Green Skills in the Sustainable Building Sector** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. The event addressed current critical challenges in the field of sustainable building. The event featured four distinct keynotes, featuring inputs from both research and practice, displaying innovative advancements in incorporating sustainable elements throughout the Austrian building sector. The event was rounded off by a podium discussion between GFSE President Dr. Irene Giner-Reichl, the four keynote-speakers and questions from the audience. Enriching answers were given by the keynote-speakers to the topics of the growing demand for trainings to obtain green skilled workers, the advancement of standardization processes in attaining sustainable building permits, as well as further initiatives to attain gender-equality throughout the green building sector.

For further information, please visit: <https://www.gfse.at/events/gfse/-/fh-campus-wien-green-skills-in-the-sustainable-building-sectorde>

### 2. GFSE Policy Brief: Green Skills for Green Buildings and Solar PVs

This policy brief provides a general overview of green skills in the energy sector, and further addresses green skills in the solar PV sector, in the sustainable building sector and the inclusion of women and importance of gender equality in the energy transition based on theoretical analysis, policy measures and best practice examples. It is crucial to take measure to mitigate the risk of skills shortages, support the new skill development, re- and upskill existing workforce and match market requirements with the skills qualifications.

For further information, please visit:

[https://www.gfse.at/fileadmin/4\\_gfse/activities/2023\\_2024/green\\_skills\\_for\\_green\\_buildings\\_and\\_solar\\_pv\\_v2.pdf](https://www.gfse.at/fileadmin/4_gfse/activities/2023_2024/green_skills_for_green_buildings_and_solar_pv_v2.pdf)

### 3. 1.18 billion in energy poverty despite rising electricity access

Since 2000, the number of people worldwide with access to electricity has increased from 75% to 90% by 2020, a significant improvement. Despite access, electricity often does not work, is unreliable and/or too expensive to use. For too many people, access to electricity has not brought significant benefits to their daily lives. At least 1.18 billion people live in energy poverty and are unable to use electricity - 60% more than the 733 million people who lacked access to electricity in 2020. According to the World Bank, there are 447 million people who do not have access to electricity, even though they are officially electrified. Some people cannot use electricity, because they do not have access to services or appliances, or they cannot afford their bills.

For further information, please visit: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/1-18-billion-around-the-world-are-unable-to-use-electricity>

### 4. How to Mobilize Everyone to be a Climate Changemaker

There is a wealth of proven solutions for many of the SDGs, particularly for climate change, clean energy and related targets. However, implementing these solutions is hampered by the fact that the underlying challenges are entangled with the systems that govern our daily lives. Even when people want to take action, they face many barriers. It is important to help people identify where and how they can contribute, and to support them in doing so. Ashoka and the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship have studied strategies used around the world to find out how to activate people as climate champions in different contexts. The Climate Changemaker Playbook contains numerous strategies to mobilise people for systemic change.

One example is Iluméxico:

Iluméxico builds solar energy systems specifically designed to meet the needs of off-grid rural communities. It also offers numerous initiatives to raise awareness and engagement in the field of renewable energy. In addition to traditional training in installation, maintenance or customer service, Iluméxico offers a training programme for employees that deepens their understanding of renewable energy and its role in mitigating climate change by demonstrating the environmental and economic impact of their work. Iluméxico also organises workshops for youth, which are based on storytelling. Iluméxico motivates community members to become stakeholder by charging high fees for its services. This encourages them to take care of the technology and be involved in the process. In addition, part of the profit generated is returned to the community to fund projects such as lighting public places and schools.

For further information, please visit: [https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/all-hands-on-deck-how-to-mobilize-everyone-to-be-a-climate-changemaker/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=SDG%20Update%20-%209%20May%202024&utm\\_content=SDG%20Update%20-%209%20May%202024+CID\\_65b37229032908cea33fa187a2d8a25f&utm\\_source=cm&utm\\_term=Read](https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/all-hands-on-deck-how-to-mobilize-everyone-to-be-a-climate-changemaker/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SDG%20Update%20-%209%20May%202024&utm_content=SDG%20Update%20-%209%20May%202024+CID_65b37229032908cea33fa187a2d8a25f&utm_source=cm&utm_term=Read)

### 5. Renewable Energy Skills Partnership position paper on skills

The Renewable Energy Skills Partnership has published a position paper on skills. The Partnership is calling on the European Commission to prioritise renewable energy skills and workforce development in policymaking. Policy recommendations include, among others:

- Dialogue with social partners and industry to ensure alignment of training programmes with labour market needs
- Foster early exposure to technical careers in primary and secondary schools
- Promote a modular approach to vocational training
- Provide incentives to apprenticeships
- Promote technical education and vocational training for renewable energies among the youth and those unemployed.

The paper also presents some good practice examples on renewable energy training from projects across Europe. One of the examples is the in-house training centre created by the company Prodeval, an equipment manufacturer, and specialist in the treatment and recovery of biogas, in order to respond to the shortage of qualified technicians in the biogas sector. The catalogue of trainings can be found here: <https://www.prodeval.com/en/company/prodeval-formation>

Please find the position paper here: <https://windeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/files/policy/position-papers/20240605-Recommendations-and-best-practices.pdf>

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We hope you enjoyed reading our news updates and look forward to staying in touch with you within the GFSE community. We highly welcome reactions and suggestions!

To unsubscribe, please send an email to [gfse@energyagency.at](mailto:gfse@energyagency.at)

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The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy is a neutral multi-stakeholder platform facilitating international dialogue on energy for sustainable development by considering the special interests and challenges of developing countries. GFSE aims to establish a sustainable world energy system from a social, economic, and environmental perspective.

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