

The Climate Institute joins the United Nations Secretary-General's *Sustainable Energy for All* initiative by partnering with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and expects that this initiative will also benefit the 43 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in achieving energy independence and freedom from fossil fuel imports by the year 2030 or sooner. The UN initiative seeks to achieve the goal of *Sustainable Energy for All* by 2030 by meeting three inter linked global targets: universal access to modern energy services; doubling energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in world's energy supply.

Some of the small island nations have already set for themselves the target date of 2020 to achieve carbon neutrality, zero energy or other aggressive sustainable energy goals. The Climate Institute and its partners, UNIDO, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Carbon War Room and others are currently actively working in a dozen island nations, and are in discussions with several others who share this vision. These islands include the Maldives, Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, Barbados, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas and Cape Verde. Additional partner organizations also include the Alliance of Small Island States, SIDS Dock, SPREP, CARICOM, Pacific Power Association, the Earthsavers UNESCO Dream Center in the Philippines, and others.

Independence from fossil fuel imports and energy diversification by utilizing renewable resources and energy efficiency technologies will save up to 25% of foreign exchange currently spent on importing diesel by the island states, which in turn would enhance their economic development and the capacity to adapt to climate change.

"SIDS may be holding the path to the solution of the climate change issue. Transformation of SIDS energy base to renewables and greening of their economies is the low hanging fruit and the best possible win-win opportunity before us. If the international community would help develop these most vulnerable of nations into sustainable energy islands, they would serve as models for others to follow and could set in motion a global energy revolution that is needed to stabilize the emissions and combat Climate Change", said Nasir Khattak of the Climate Institute. "The small islands within bigger nations should also join this initiative in order to help reach the scale needed for investments in the islands", said former Senator and Climate Change Commissioner Heherson Alvarez of Philippines.

Earlier this year, the Climate Institute announced its VISION 2020 program as its second decade campaign of its Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (www.gseii.org), which was initiated at COP7 in 2000. VISION 2020 is not a new program but rather a campaign and a coordination mechanism. It is the Vision for Independence of Small Islands from Fossil Energy by the year 2020, and seeks to organize all island economies to work toward this rather ambitious goal and target. It is an effort to identify and encourage the island leaders, and to organize the regional and multilateral organizations, the private sector, financial institutions and other stakeholders who share this vision.

Climate Institute invites additional partners who may share this vision and can help achieve the goal of achieving energy independence by participating islands by 2020, and for all the Small Island Developing States by 2030 within the time frame set by the Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative. A list of partners and a collaborative action plan will be developed and presented at the Rio +20 Conference in June, 2012.

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Climate Institute is an international NGO with headquarters in Washington DC. It seeks to protect the balance between climate and life on earth. It serves as a catalyst for change by turning innovative ideas into action. It bridges the countries of the North and the South, and connects scientific community with the policy makers. It was one of the first groups specifically established to combat climate change, and celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. For more information, see our web site: www.climate.org