Pathways 2050—High Ambition Coalition Conference

Background

Well over a third of the Worlds' population cook their daily meals and heat water with solid fuels. This solid fuel usage contributes to accelerating climate change and detrimental health outcomes that harm local economies and community health and are completely avoidable.

Universal smokeless, fossil fuel free[1] cooking, although technically feasible today, is unlikely to become a standard for decades and indeed is not a given in the future.

Despite the achievements of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC) in raising the profile and awareness of the importance of improving the cookstove sector, there are still hundreds of millions of households without access to cleaner cooking options.

The UN Sustainable Development goals clearly sets out an energy specific target *by 2030, (to) ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.*[2] At the same time The International Energy Agency's African Energy Outlook[3] predicts that, 650 million people in Africa, more than one third of an expanding population, will continue to cook with biomass in an inefficient and hazardous way in 2040.

Bridging the gap between such targets and trends will require transformational change and locally driven, appropriate technologies and practices are to play a valuable and important role in this transition.

"Having a good plan is never a sufficient condition for success, but not having one is always a recipe for failure",

Laurence Tubiana, French Diplomat & High Level Climate Champion

Creating a High Ambition Coalition

We envision bringing together "a high ambition coalition"[4] in the cleaner cooking sector to develop strategies and pathways to smokeless, fossil-free cooking.

This coalition, composed of specialists, each with more than a decade of experience in the energy and food security sectors, will align the strategy with the Sustainable Development Goals that focus on– ***universal, locally designed and developed, smokeless, fossil free cooking***?

We can reach this goal by developing a strategy for technology, fuels, practices and cooking ventilation pathways now.

Participants can be liberated from competing best immediate interventions, that involve many technologies and fuels, and be afforded space to develop long-term trajectories – a hook to hang a long-term vision on - so to speak.

Themes and Discussion points for the Conference

The event will help create a space to share and learn, a space for collective problem solving – an action learning platform for:

- Innovation
    - Energy use – adoption of technologies and practices,
    - Business models,
    - Communication and inter-culturality,
    - Institutions – rules, standards, *modus operandi*

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[1] Fossil free cooking is a long-term goal that will allow, some time in the future, a portfolio of cooking options based on renewables such as solar, biomass, etc. As part of the transition, in the interim, there will be hybrid solutions including liquid petroleum gas.

[2] http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/

[3] https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO2014_AfricaEnergyOutlook.pdf

[4] The initiative is partially inspired by the "Under 2 MoU", the "High Ambition Coalition" and the "2050 pathways platform"

- Existing and evolving funding mechanisms for cleaner cooking.

- Measuring impacts, usage and performance. Learning from:
    - KPTs, CCTs and WBTs
    - Can carbon certification improve project quality?
    - ENDEV's monitoring the cooking energy system,
    - GACC's tier system[5]
    - SE4ALL's Global Tracking System[6]

Thematic discussions:

- The politics of biomass cooking
- **Post** Clean Development Mechanism – what happens after 2020?
- How can the cleaner cooking sector **participate** in the design and development of methods to measure and monitor climate change and sustainable development benefits?
- What is **modern** energy?[7]

Participants

In order to have tangible outcomes and next steps this inaugural event will keep the participant number low (30 participants) and focused, composed of pragmatic 'doers' but from various fields--academic researchers, field implementers, international agencies, policy makers and agencies who can collectively strategize on how to develop a medium to long term plan to reach universal, fossil free, clean cooking.

The Venue

The Research Institute in Ecosystems and Sustainability (IIES) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM),[8] is to host the event in the historical city of Morelia, a UN world heritage site.

UNAM has a rich experience in ecology, society and technology with emphasis on ecological cookstoves and has its own Laboratory for Innovation and Evaluation of Biomass Cookstoves (LINEB).[9]

IIES will provide the conference facilities and organize conference logistics.

Dates: Wednesday May 31st to June 2nd 2017

A detailed programme and agenda will be sent to participants one month before the event

Funding / How to contribute

Participants will be invited to attend but will be requested to self-fund fund their flight, food and accommodation during the conference but upon confirmation of participation, organizers will work with participants to find the best options for their budgets.

[5] http://cleancookstoves.org/technology-and-fuels/standards/iwa-tiers-of-performance.html
[6] http://trackingenergy4all.worldbank.org/ and https://www.esmap.org/node/55526
[7] Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 7 aims at having universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable **modern** energy by 2030 - http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/
[8] Instituto de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas y Sustentabilidad (IIES) http://www.iies.unam.mx/
[9] http://ecotec.unam.mx/Ecotec/proyectos-lineb