

Thirtieth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

22-24 September 2021, Hybrid meeting (Tempus 2 Room, Geneva and online)

SESSION STRUCTURE TO THE ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Wednesday, 22 September 2021 from 10.00-18.00

Opening and adoption of the agenda; Matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

22 September 2021, 10.00-10.30

Agenda Items 1, 2

10.00-10.30 Opening and adoption of the agenda

1. Administrative matters, adoption of agenda, election of officers
2. Opening of the session and welcome remarks
 - Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair, Committee on Sustainable Energy
 - Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE

High-level Segment – Country Commitments on Energy in the Context of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on Energy

22 September 2021, 10.30-12.30

Agenda Item 3

UNECE member States delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement - A Commitment Trifecta

The UNECE sustainable energy subprogramme's mission is to help its member States meet their commitments to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The intent is to address the region's challenges and objectives with products and activities that deliver measurable, tangible results in the near term but with enduring impact. Member States have reviewed the subprogramme and set forth their collective strategic approach on energy in document ECE/ENERGY/2021/4.

During the high-level segment, UNECE member States are expected to reflect on tightened and tightening commitments on energy for sustainable development and to endorse the UNECE sustainable energy subprogramme's strategic approach to helping member States meet their commitments.

Intervenors

- Ambassador Dr. Hans-Peter Jugel, Deputy Permanent Representative, Germany
- Alexey Kulapin, General Director, Russian Energy Agency, Ministry of Energy, Russian Federation
- Ambassador Slavica Milačić, Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Montenegro
- James Browne TD, Minister of State for the Department of Justice and Equality with responsibility for Law Reform, Ireland
- Ambassador Christoph Wieland, Deputy Permanent Representative, Austria
- Kairat Rakhimov, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan TBC

UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy – 30th Anniversary Awards

This session will recognize contributions to the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy over the past 30 years

Voluntary commitments of UNECE member States on sustainable energy

Presentation of the Commitment Trifecta & Push to Pivot papers

Strategic review of the sustainable energy subprogramme

22 September 2021, 12.30-12.45

Agenda Item 4

Introduction by the UNECE secretariat

Pathways to sustainable energy

22 September 2021, 12.45-13.00

Agenda Item 5

Introduction by the UNECE secretariat

Follow-up to the 2021 session of the Economic Commission for Europe

22 September 2021, 15.00-18.00

Agenda Item 6

15.00-15.40 Methane management

Moderator: Dan McDougall, Senior Fellow, Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

Keynote address: Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation

Panellists

- Oksana Tarasova, Head, Atmospheric Environment Research Division, World Meteorological Organization
- Manfredi Caltagirone, Head, a.i. International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), United Nations Environment Programme

Discussion themes

The session will set forth the case for managing methane as a priority action for countries as they seek to attain their objectives under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to issue a call to action by UNECE member States to support of a declaration by the United Nations General Assembly of an International Decade for Methane Management.

Issues to be explored

- The impact of methane on global warming and the extent of human involvement.
- What is being done on international level, national, and industry levels?
- Barriers to meaningful action on methane, and how can they be removed?
- Benefits of proper methane management.
- Is effective international agreement on methane possible?

15.40-16.00 Technical session on methane management

Speakers

- Raymond Pilcher, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
- Manuel Coxe, Secretary General, Marcogaz
- Volha Roshchanka, Program Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Lukasz Kroplewski, Vice-Chair, Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Discussion themes

- New technologies for detection and monitoring of methane emissions and their contribution to mitigation efforts, in particular in the natural gas and coal industry.

Issues to be explored

- What can be done to mitigate methane emissions?
- What is being done, on the international level, on the national level, on the industry level?
- Costs of limiting methane emissions versus costs of inaction.
- How coordinated and efficient are the current initiatives?
- Benefits of proper methane management for the oil, gas, and coal sectors.

16.00-17.00 High-Performance Buildings

Moderator: Lindsey Dickes Falasca, Director, High-Performance Building Hub, Institute for Market Transformation

Keynote address: Justin Schwartz, Dean of Engineering, Penn State University

Panellists

- Vivian Loftness, Paul Mellon Chair in Architecture, University Professor, Carnegie Mellon University
- Jenna Cramer, Executive Director, Green Building Alliance
- Chris Cieslak, VP of Program Strategy and Impact, Green Building Alliance

Discussion themes

The session aims to raise awareness on how to achieve high performance in buildings and the built environment and inviting the UNECE member States to commit to action. It will discuss how to operationalize decisions taken by UNECE at its sixty-ninth session, particularly on: (i) how to best support member States in improving the performance of buildings; and (ii) the kind of stakeholder engagement that has proved successful regarding dissemination, research and education efforts on this matter.

Issues to be explored:

- Alignment of building codes and their deployment with high performance targets; ensuring new buildings are certified compliant; reduction of the average energy requirement per square metre in the new building “fleet” and in existing buildings to best practice;
- Reduction of CO₂ emissions associated with meeting buildings’ energy needs; increase of the amount of carbon “stored” in buildings; improvement of indoor air quality and reduction of pollution-linked health issues;
- Improvement of the global supply chain for the construction business; reduction of waste and of embedded carbon in buildings and building products; recovery of materials at the end of a building’s life.

17.00-18.00 A Global Framework for Sustainable Resource Management

Moderator: Slavko Solar, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, EGRM Secretariat

Keynote addresses

- Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Peter Handley, Head of Unit, Energy Intensive Industries - Raw Materials, DG GROW, European Commission
- Karen Hanghøj, Director, British Geological Survey, UK (invited)

Panellists

- Igor Shpurov, State Committee on Mineral Reserves (FBO GKZ) and International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) Moscow, Russian Federation
- Ulises Neri, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico
- Tunde Arisekola, African Union Commission, African Minerals Development Centre
- JU Jianhua, Director-General, Mineral Resources Protection and Supervision Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
- Meta Dobnikar, EuroGeoSurveys, GeoZS, Slovenia

Discussion themes

This session will review the urgency for integrated and sustainable management of natural resources. Keynote speakers and panellists will discuss and review commitment to the development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS). A range of stakeholders are starting to apply these tools globally to transform the production and use of natural resources along sustainable pathways to deliver good social and environmental outcomes. The session will focus on an exchange of ideas and progress made globally, including on the establishment of International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management.

Issues to be explored

- What is the added value of applying UNFC and UNRMS for the management of natural resources?
- What are the challenges and opportunities in managing diverse natural resources?
- How important is the social contract on natural resources in realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda?
- Why should natural resources in a modern world be managed in an integrated and sustainable manner?
- How important is international collaboration in the sustainable management of natural resources?
- How can the ICE-SRMs promote collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building?

Thursday, 23 September 2021 from 10.00-18.00

Follow-up to the 2021 session of the Economic Commission for Europe (cont.)

23 September 2021, 10.00-11.30

Agenda Item 6

Panel: Subsidies and carbon prices

Introduction and moderation: Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair, UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy

Panellists

- Ron Steenblik, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Environment Directorate, OECD
- Alexey Kulapin, General Director, Russian Energy Agency, Ministry of Energy, Russian Federation
- Representative of the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA)

Discussion themes

The session will prepare the topic for further analysis and development of best practice guidance regarding reform of subsidies.

Issues to be explored

- Is it possible to create more transparency on subsidies and greenhouse gas prices and to understand their consequences?
- How can they be better designed or reformed to be aligned with NDC goals?
- End-use consumer subsidies; subsidies on fossil; subsidies to support renewables
- Can prices and subsidies be reformed without creating social stresses or significant stranded assets? Are there best practices for how this can be accomplished?
- Is the long-term goal to achieve uniform greenhouse gas prices or to establish a pricing framework that enables efficient interaction of regional or national prices?
- What would reform of subsidies and greenhouse gas pricing mean for the goal of limiting temperature increases to 1.5-2°C?

Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

23 September 2021, 11.30-18.00

Agenda Item 7

Panel: Just transition

Moderator: Raymond Pilcher, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Panellists:

- Valentina Moskalenko, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ukraine
- Raphael Heffron, Professor - Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy, Centre for Energy, Petroleum, Mineral Law & Policy (CEPMLP), University of Dundee
- Michael Stanley, Global Leader Coal Decarbonization, Oil, Gas, Mining and Chemicals Department, World Bank Group
- Hans Rüdiger Lange, Professor, Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg
(*recorded presentation*)
- Michal Drabik, Secretary, UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Discussion themes:

The Panel will inform the Committee on Sustainable Energy and UNECE member States on the approach to Just Transition adopted by the Sustainable Energy Division and on the work that it is to undertake to help member States in preparation for that process; present the theory behind the concept of Just Transition and the challenges that it poses to States and professionals working on that matter; and seek to obtain support from the Committee on Sustainable Energy for the Division's work on just transition.

Issues to be explored:

- Regulatory matters and the legal framework that needs to be put in place to prepare and implement just transition in an organized and planned manner?
- The institutional side of a just transition process; how the institutions/governments adapt to the current situation and what could/should they do to provide the necessary support to the affected communities.
- Private sector's perspective on the transition process and the efforts that the coal industry undertakes to address the issue.
- Challenges encountered by the communities affected by the ongoing changes and the importance of innovation for a successful transition.
- Financial aspect of just transition and costs of inaction.
- Intersection of the technical, financial, and social matters and the need of approaching the transition process in a holistic way.
- Lessons learned from the past and the recurring mistake of addressing social issues with an overly technical approach.
- Just Transition as a cultural process.

15:00 – 16:30 Panel: Electricity as a Driver for Transformation of Energy

Moderator: Jim Robb, Chair, Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems

Panellists

- Pedro Pizarro, Chief Executive Officer, Edison International, United States
- Arshad Mansoor, President, Electric Power Research Institute
- Cédric Lewandowski, EDF Group Senior Executive Vice-President, Nuclear and Thermal, France
- Daniyar Yerenchinov, Chairman, International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects, Republic of Kazakhstan

Discussion themes

This panel will explore the opportunities for and issues in leveraging a future electricity system in deep transformation of the end-to-end energy system from power generation through to end use including widespread expansion into non-traditional end uses for electricity such as transportation, industrial process, and space heating.

Issues to be explored

- How realistic is deep transformation of the energy system vision and over what time frame?
- What key enabling technologies are required and how close are they to commercial viability?
- What impact will such a transformation have on utilities, utility operations and the power grid?
- What key policy enablers will be required to make such a transformation occur?
- What near term steps should be taken to make such a vision a reality?

16:30 – 18:00 Carbon capture, use, and storage

Moderator: Jarad Daniels, Vice-Chair, Committee on Sustainable Energy

Introductory remarks: Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Keynote address: Dr. Jennifer Wilcox, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, United States Department of Energy

Panellists

- Samantha McCullough, Head of Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage Unit, IEA
- Roger Aines, Senior Scientist, Atmospheric, Earth, and Energy Division, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, United States
- Sergey Katyshev, Vice-Chair, Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, Kazakhstan
- Bryony Livesey, ISCF Director, Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge, United Kingdom

Discussion themes

- What is the space and status of CCUS development in UNECE countries?
- Which technologies and business models are emerging?
- What works and where are identified barriers?
- What are possible solutions and lessons learned?
- How can UNECE help?

Friday, 24 September 2021 from 10.00-18.00

Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (cont.)

24 September 2021, 10.00-18.00

Agenda Item 7

10:00 – 11:30 Panel: Scaling up Clean Hydrogen in the UNECE Region

Moderators: Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, Group of Experts on Gas
Florian Marko, Co-Chair, Task Force on Hydrogen and Vice-Chair, Group of Experts on Gas

Panellists

- María Jaén, Green Hysland Coordinator, Spain
- Eva Hennig, Head of EU Energy Policy, Thüga AG, Germany
- Konstantin Romanov, CEO, Gazprom Hydrogen, Russian Federation
- Sophie Sauerteig, Policy Advisor – International (Hydrogen Strategy), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom

Discussion themes

This panel will inform the Committee on current and future hydrogen projects in the UNECE region and identify how to scale them across the region towards a “hydrogen ecosystem”.

- Transition to carbon neutrality on small islands through hydrogen
- Harnessing gas infrastructure for scaling up of hydrogen
- Clean hydrogen production pathways
- National hydrogen strategies

12:00 – 13:00 Panel: Energy and Resources as Services

Moderator and Introduction to the topic: Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE

Panellists

- Maria Nyberg, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
- Frances Wall, Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter, UK
- Representative of WRI/WSCBD

Discussion themes

This panel will discuss the promise offered by Energy and Resources as a Service model to help progress towards a circular economy. Several models being applied by the IT, mobility and other sectors could be easily adapted by energy and resource industries. The panel will focus on (i) identification of key policy aspects, (ii) considerations for business models, and (iii) financial sector requirements that can potentially promote energy and resources as services (E-RaaS) models.

Issues to be explored

- How significant is the promise of “as a service” in enabling a more circular economy?
- What are the policy and regulatory challenges in introducing energy and resources as a service model?
- How can the energy and resource industry align to new E-RaaS models?
- Can the energy and resource sectors learn from other industries on “as a Service” models?

15:00 – 15:30 Results of independent assessment of sustainable energy subprogramme partnerships

Presentation on the evaluation results by Nelly Dolidze, Evaluator (10-15 minutes) followed by a Q&A session.

In addition to presenting the results of the evaluation, the evaluator has been invited to also address the decision adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe B (69) and provide any recommendation she may have on how to implement it, based on her evaluation.

Decision B (69) "Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources" adopted at the 2021 session of the Economic Commission for Europe requests among others the secretariat to further promote partnerships related to a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, including with the United Nations system, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, to explore opportunities for synergies to broaden the use of relevant UNECE instruments.

15.30-16.00 Regional advisory services in sustainable energy

Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser on Energy, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE, will brief the audience about activities and project implementation related to the regional advisory services. This includes the status of various projects under the "United Nations Development Account" (UNDA) and other extrabudgetary projects.

16.00-16.30 Programme of work for 2022 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for 2023

Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair, Committee on Sustainable Energy

Discussion with member States.

16.30-17.00 Approval of documents

Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair, Committee on Sustainable Energy
Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE

The Committee will be requested to note or approve a range of documents to support the implementation of the previously mandated areas of work and/or extend respective mandates.

The Committee will further be invited to agree to the provisional calendar of meetings for 2022 (ECE/ENERGY/2021/2) and the revised publications plan for 2021 and 2022 and the draft publications plan for 2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2021/3).

Any other business

26 September 2018, 17.00-17.30

Agenda Item 8

Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

26 September 2018, 17.30-18.00

Agenda Item 9

Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair, Committee on Sustainable Energy

The Chair will summarize the major decisions, conclusions and recommendations taken by the Committee. The Committee will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Adopt:

ECE/ENERGY/137 - Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirtieth session