



Trainings for Counties under the Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project Kick Off

The Government, through the Ministry of Energy, in conjunction with the World Bank, has embarked on an ambitious programme to build the capacity of counties, to enable them undertake their role in the energy sector.



Participants of the Sustainable Energy for Policy Makers from Marsabit, Isiolo and Narok Counties at Strathmore University. (Picture courtesy of Strathmore University)

The trainings kicked off with a course on Sustainable Energy for Policy Makers at Strathmore University, attended by 14 senior officials from Narok, Isiolo and Marsabit Counties.

The trainings are part of Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project, an initiative of the Ministry of Energy with support from the World Bank that is expected to provide electricity to about 1.3 Million people in the 14 underserved counties.

Speaking at the launch of training, Eng. Isaac Bondet from the Ministry of Energy noted that KOSAP was conceptualised as part of the country’s efforts to realise universal access to electricity by 2022.

He urged the participants to utilize the knowledge gained from the course to champion the use of renewable energy at the county level.



Engineer Isaac Bondet from the Ministry of Energy making a presentation at the training. (Picture courtesy of Strathmore University)

“The course is very relevant to my duties. It will equip me with the necessary skills to provide policy direction in the area of renewable energy,” said Janet Ahadho, the Assistant Director, Environment and Natural Resources, Marsabit County.



Ms. Janet Ahadho, the Assistant Director, Environment and Natural Resources, Marsabit County. Picture courtesy of Strathmore University)

Ms Ahadho noted that majority of residents in Marsabit County would experience improved health if they

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adopted the use of clean cooking stoves championed by the project, as opposed to the use of kerosene stoves and lamps for cooking and lighting.

An estimated 90 County officials will be trained between November 2018 and May, 2019 on various aspects of energy management.



Cross section of the participants at the training. (Picture courtesy of Nyaga Ileri.)

Narok Director of Energy, Mr. Peter Chemborgoi hailed the training as significant, as it will equip the county energy team with the relevant skills to ensure that the best practices in energy management are adopted in the county.

Wajir County Working Group Holds Inaugural Meeting

In other news, the Wajir County Working Group (CWG) has held its inaugural meeting, in preparedness for the roll out of the Kenya Off –Grid Solar Access Project (KOSAP) activities in the county.

The inaugural meeting held at Al- Bustani Hotel in Wajir Town was attended by all members of the CWG and was chaired by the County Commissioner Mr. Loyford Kibaara. The County Working Group is a

critical organ of KOSAP and is expected to facilitate the implementation of the project in the county.

The CWG will among other things, ensure that communities are fully engaged in the project, facilitate acquisition of land for construction of mini-grids and provide leadership in resolving conflicts experienced in the implementation.



Attentive members of the Wajir County Working Group. (Picture: courtesy of KOSAP.)

Speaking at the meeting, Wajir County Executive Member Ms Ebla Hassan, who co-chaired the meeting, noted that the project is very timely as majority of residents in the area are not connected to the main grid.

She pointed out that a consultative process had been undertaken with relevant stakeholders in identifying the community facilities such as health centres schools that will benefit from the project.

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Ms Ebla Hassan, CEC Energy Wajir County and Mr Loyford Kibaara, County Commissioner Wajir addressing members of the KOSAP County Working Group.

County Commission Loyford Kibaara assured the project implementations team that security will be provided to all contractors and installations related to the project.

KOSAP Committed To Resolving any Environmental and Social Impact Issues



Ms. Kulamu Bullo, Co-Chair, TWG and CEC Member, Energy at the KOSAP Meeting

The Kenya Off-Grid Solar Project (KOSAP) is committed to resolving any environmental and social impact issues that may arise during implementation.

This was re-affirmed during its 4th Technical Working Group meeting held in Nairobi in November. The meeting noted that though the project will construct about 120 mini-grids in the 14 Counties, very little displacement of persons or communities is expected.



World Bank Senior Energy Specialist Zubair Sadeque addressing the TWG, at World Bank Offices, Nairobi.

World Bank Senior Energy Specialist Zubair Sadeque called on the TWG to ensure that proper documentation of the land acquisition process is undertaken. This will ease the process of constructing the mini-grids.



Eng. Isaac Kiva Chairperson TWG and Secretary, Renewable Energy, makes a point at the TWG. He is flanked by the Taita Taveta Deputy Governor and CEC, Energy, Ms Majala Mlaghui.

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Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project Bulletin



The meeting was attended by the County Executive Committee (CEC) Members and Chief Officers from the 14 beneficiary Counties, the World Bank and the Ministry of Energy. Also present were representatives from Kenya Power and Light Company, Rural Electrification Authority, Council of Governors (Cog) Electricity Regulation Authority and, Ministries of Health, Education, Interior, Devolution, & Water. It is also attended by County Renewable Energy Officers and other PCU Member.

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