



The World Gets Windy

On 15 June, in more than eighty (80) countries around world, wind energy would be put in the spotlight in observance of 'Global Wind Day'. This day plays a central role in contributing to the Sustainable Energy For All initiative through galvanising the much needed support for the wind energy industry from political leaders around the globe. No doubt, at the centre of the global conversation on that day, would be the goal of doubling renewable energy by 2030.

Increasing Wind Energy Use

The proportion of the wind energy in the global energy mix continues to increase, so much so, that it is projected that with the right policy support, wind power supply to industry will by next year, double from its 2012 levels. At present, wind power is sold commercially in seventy-five (75) countries with twenty-one (21) of them having more than 1000 MW installed; this is more than 30 times what it was in 1997 when the Kyoto Protocol was signed.

With the current proportion of wind energy in the global energy mix carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions will be reduced by up to 1.5 billion tons per annum, saving billions of



litres of precious fresh water, and contributing to energy security and price stability in countries around the world; but for wind power and other renewables to reach their full potential, governments need to act.

Benefits of Wind Energy

Wind energy is one of the cleanest, most environmentally-friendly and cost competitive energy sources. It is fast to deploy and consumes no fresh water to generate electricity.

It is believed that renewable energy is the path to a more secure, reliable and sustainable energy future for all. However, to enable this we must employ all our partnerships, knowledge, and technology to utilise our abundant renewable resources. Wind power with its geographical diversity and established technologies, is an essential source of renewable energy.

Looking at the benefits of wind energy on an economic front, \$630 billion were spent in 2012 on fossil fuel subsidies globally. If these (subsidies) were even partially redirected the goal of doubling the global wind energy supply/installation, create millions of jobs, help clean our air and address the crisis of global climate change.

Wind energy provides a solution to some of the most critical challenges we face today: climate change, and fresh water scarcity. The power sector is the single largest contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions, and is also one of the largest consumers of fresh water. Wind energy produces no carbon dioxide, and consumes no water.

Wind Energy Critical to Fight Climate Change

According to Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), governments need to start “a radical transformation of the world into a low-carbon economy to stand a chance of staying below the internationally agreed maximum two degrees Celsius temperature rise”. She added that “the extensive and scaled-up deployment of wind energy and other forms of renewable energy needs to play a central role in this transformation. By providing the right conditions and incentives, policy-makers at all levels can harness the potential of the wind sector, whilst ensuring its environmental integrity. This can in turn provide a policy impetus for stronger climate action all round at national and international level, including in the negotiations towards a new 2015 global climate agreement.”

Guyana’s Low Carbon Path

Guyana is firmly on a low carbon path, as articulated in its Low Carbon Development Strategy. At this point in our development we have chosen to utilize our most available and critical forest resources to steer us along this path. With over 75% forest cover, our country intends to continue its sustainable use of our forests to mitigate climate change. Renewable energy in the form of hydroelectric energy is one of our key approaches for the future. This would be adequately supplemented by solar energy and wind energy to increase the proportion of renewable in our national energy mix.

Global Wind Day Activities

Global Wind Day is a day for discovering the power of wind energy; it gives people the opportunity to learn about the technology and its benefits. Events organised around the world include wind farm visits, open air concerts and public debates, boat trips, video

contests, comic workshops, all giving a chance to find out why wind energy is good for both our economy and our climate.

Global Wind Day is jointly organised by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), who coordinate a worldwide network of partners. This year's new features include an international photo competition "Wind in Mind", Global Wind Day ambassadors and a Global Wind Day video.

You can share your ideas and questions by sending letters to: "Our Earth, Our Environment", C/O EIT Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Ganges Street, Sophia, GEORGETOWN, or email us at: eit.epaguyana@gmail.com