The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals recognise energy access as the “golden thread” that weaves together human development, economic growth & sustainability.

Yet, IEA analysis in the Energy Access Outlook finds that 1.1 billion people lack access to electricity & 2.8 billion people do not have access to clean cooking.

Women without access bear the burden, spending over 5 hours each day gathering wood & cooking on polluting stoves, linked to 2.8 million premature deaths per year.

Much policy progress has been made, but more has to be done; falling costs of renewables & digital technologies are transforming the electricity access landscape.
Progress in electricity access is seen in all world regions, but sub-Saharan Africa lags behind.

Many countries, led by India, are on track to achieving full electrification by 2030, but – despite recent progress – efforts in sub-Saharan Africa need to redouble.
The IEA was the first international institution to introduce energy access to the global policy agenda, tracking and making outlooks for access since 2000.

SDG 7 is a key work-stream across the work of the IEA, covering data and scenarios, policy advise and high-level engagement.

IEA is UN-appointed global custodian agency for tracking progress on SDG 7.2 (renewable energy), 7.3 (energy efficiency); and for 9.4 (emissions/value added).

The IEA co-leads “Tracking SDG7”, a joint report of SDG7 custodian agencies (World Bank, WHO, UN-Statistics and IRENA), a benchmark of progress towards SDG 7.

The Sustainable Development Scenario in WEO-2017 as a new benchmark scenario that achieves energy-related SDGs – energy access, air pollution and climate change.
IEA data & analysis cover all pillars of SDG 7

Progress towards goals of SDG 7 – historical and under current and planned policies

The world is not on track to achieving the targets of SDG 7 by 2030

SDG 7.1: Share of population with modern energy access
- Clean cooking access
- Electricity access

SDG 7.2: Renewable energy share in final energy consumption
- Renewable energy share of TFC
- incl. traditional use of biomass

SDG 7.3: Global energy intensity
- Global energy intensity (toe/$1000 GDP)
A new strategy for energy & sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Scenario reduces CO₂ emissions to address climate change while also tackling air pollution and achieving universal energy access.
An ambitious scenario to mitigate climate change

The Sustainable Development Scenario relative to other recent decarbonisation scenarios

The emissions trajectory of the Sustainable Development Scenario to 2040 is at the lower end of decarbonisation scenarios projecting a median 2100 temperature rise of 1.7 °C to 1.8 °C
Achieving universal energy access is not in conflict with climate goals

- Grid extension for 150 million additional people, with hydro accounting for the lion’s share

- Decentralised solutions, mainly solar PV, for the remaining 450 million people in rural areas

- An additional $26 billion per year is needed in electricity generation and grids

Policies of the Sustainable Development Scenario achieve universal energy access by 2030, improving human health and supporting the achievement of climate change goals
Reducing air pollution has many facets

Drivers of air pollutant emissions reductions in the Sustainable Development Scenario, relative to the New Policies Scenario, 2040

- SO$_2$ -40 Mt
  - Air pollution: 64%
  - Low-carbon transition: 35%
  - Universal access: 1%

- NO$_x$ -36 Mt
  - Air pollution: 53%
  - Low-carbon transition: 45%
  - Universal access: 2%

- PM$_{2.5}$ -25 Mt
  - Air pollution: 38%
  - Low-carbon transition: 38%
  - Universal access: 24%

Measures targeting:
- Air pollution
- Low-carbon transition
- Universal access

Air pollution control is the main contributor to reducing outdoor air pollution; achieving universal access to modern energy is important for reducing fine particulate matter.
New web resource for IEA work on SDG7

Sustainable Development Goal 7
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The IEA provides annual country-by-country data on access to electricity and clean cooking (SDG 7.1) and is the main source for tracking progress towards renewables (SDG 7.2) and energy efficiency (SDG 7.3) targets. Learn more below or read "Energy is at the heart of the sustainable development agenda to 2030" by IEA Executive Director Dr Fatih Birol.

Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

www.iea.org/sdg: Free IEA data & projections for the four SDG7 indicators
Opportunities and way forward

- Learn from past experiences and implement clear and consistent policies
  - encourage a wide range of solutions and business models
  - create suitable conditions for off-grid investment and make provision for subsequent connection of decentralised solutions to the grid
  - make energy efficiency an integral part of access policies; include productive uses
  - Women need to be at the centre of the shift to clean cooking

- Key opportunity to raise cooperation on policy and data at a country and global level
  - MOU recently signed between IEA and Africa Union Commission, paving the way for more engagement on Africa – data, capacity building and policy guidance

- WEO is continuing to work on informing pathways to deliver universal electricity access