



Powering people and planet through clean energy

OUR 2023-26 STRATEGY



Contents

Foreword	03
People and planet are under threat	04
We are Renewable World	06
What we do	10
Where we work	22
Our people	24
Our values	25
We are on a mission	26

Foreword

As we launch Renewable World’s new strategy, 1.2 billion people globally face acute deprivation in health, education and living standards, lacking access to electricity, clean cooking, drinking water and sanitation. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, global poverty has increased for the first time in decades and inequality is rising. Efforts to end extreme poverty and halve multi-dimensional poverty by 2030 (SDG1) are off track.

At the same time, global warming is accelerating. The past nine years have been the warmest on record. If the world is to make real progress towards achieving net zero by 2050 and avoid climate disaster, we need rapid, economy-wide transformation, including bold action to replace fossil fuels with clean energy.

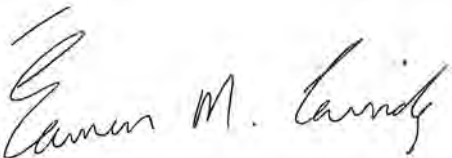
The world’s poorest people have contributed little to climate change but are the most affected and the least able to adapt. Their ability to lift themselves out of poverty is severely constrained by low access to energy. Enhancing the availability and use of clean and affordable energy is critical to breaking this vicious circle.

At Renewable World we empower people living in poverty to develop sustainable and resilient livelihoods and mitigate the impact of climate change through improved access to clean energy. We collaborate with communities and organisations and work together to innovate, test, and scale clean energy solutions which respond to specific contexts and solve problems. Since we were founded in 2007, we have helped 123,000 people to access clean energy. By 2030, our ambition is to have enabled over half a million people to transform their lives and tackle climate change.

I am proud to introduce Renewable World’s 2023-2026 strategy, *Powering People and Planet Through Clean Energy*, which sets out how we plan to work towards that 2030 ambition over the coming three years. The strategy builds on our existing approach, experience, and capabilities, but with an enhanced emphasis on energising these to deliver real systemic impact.

Working in partnership with public and private sector actors, we will pilot innovation where the need is greatest. We will support the development of well-functioning markets that work for poor people, augmenting our tried and tested community-centred model with the latest market system thinking. Renewable World and our collaborators will work in a fully inclusive and accountable way and in harmony with the environment.

We are delighted to be moving into this next stage of our work and look forward to bringing our partners old and new with us on this exciting journey.



Eamon Cassidy
CEO

People and planet are under threat

1.2 billion people are still living in poverty, inequality is rising, and the world is failing to decarbonise quickly enough to avoid climate disaster.

The world's poorest people contributed little to climate change, yet they are most impacted, and least able to adapt. This is not fair. And it is not sustainable.

While a range of energy sources support efforts to eliminate poverty in developing countries, clean energy is a prerequisite for sustainable livelihoods that are in harmony with the environment, for tackling climate change, and for enhancing welfare. Without it we won't make the breakthroughs needed by people and the planet by 2030.

730 million people still live without electricity and 2.4 billion without clean cooking. Rapidly improving access to clean energy for the poorest requires innovation and investment, but market failures limit progress. Linear, siloed, and top-down approaches to development will not deliver the transformational change that people and the planet need.

We are working hard to change this.

25 million

people in Kenya and Nepal are multi-dimensionally poor.

21 million

live without electricity.

Accelerated and equitable climate action in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts is critical to sustainable development.

Increased electricity use, access, reliability, and affordability, are strongly correlated with higher levels of economic growth.



We are Renewable World

We are Renewable World – an International Non-Government Organisation (INGO) headquartered in Brighton, UK, with regional offices in Kenya and Nepal.

We demand a sustainable and fairer world where clean energy is accessible to all – because with clean energy, both people and planet can thrive.

It is our mission is to enable people living in poverty – especially those living in rural, off-grid communities – to transform their lives by improving their access to clean energy, empowering them to develop sustainable and resilient livelihoods, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

We know this can be achieved by working in partnership, piloting innovation, and delivering systemic locally led projects. And we won't rest until it is done.

This document outlines our ambitious new strategy that will scale up our impact for people and planet. It will put us on course to transforming the lives of over 500,000 people through clean energy by 2030.

A more sustainable and fairer world

As clean energy experts, we concentrate our efforts on United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Seven (SDG7), Affordable and Clean Energy, and maximising our impact on creating a fairer and more sustainable world through eliminating poverty (SDG 1) and combating climate change and its impacts (SDG13). Under our four focus areas, we also directly work on SDGs 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and help enable many others.



Our strategic goals

1. Empower 200,000 people to transform their lives

To be on-track to achieve our 2030 goal of reaching 500,000 people, we have set an interim target of reaching 200,000 people by 2026.

2. Expand our innovative East African programme to a second country

We will scale-up our innovative Kenya programme, expanding to a second African country by 2026.

3. 100% of our projects will be achieving systemic impact

By 2026, all our projects will be designed and implemented with systems approaches at their core, applying best practice and informed by the local context.

Our new strategic direction will also see us increasing supporting a wider range of partners needed to create inclusive markets for people in poverty, including the private sector, governments, and civil society. While we will support other actors, it will always be with the intent of transforming the lives of the poor and marginalised, leaving no-one behind.



Our strategic shift and difference

This strategy will see us build on our existing approach, experience, and capabilities, and energising these to deliver greater, systemic impact in transforming lives and tackling climate change through clean energy.

We will achieve this through three strategic shifts.

1. Piloting scalable innovation

We believe in the power of innovation and will focus on piloting innovation where the need is greatest. This will include partnering with the private sector to trial innovative technologies and business models. We believe we can play a key role in mobilising stakeholders, activating energy demand, facilitating local value chains, and engaging key policymakers and funders who can enable scale-up.

2. Systemic locally led change

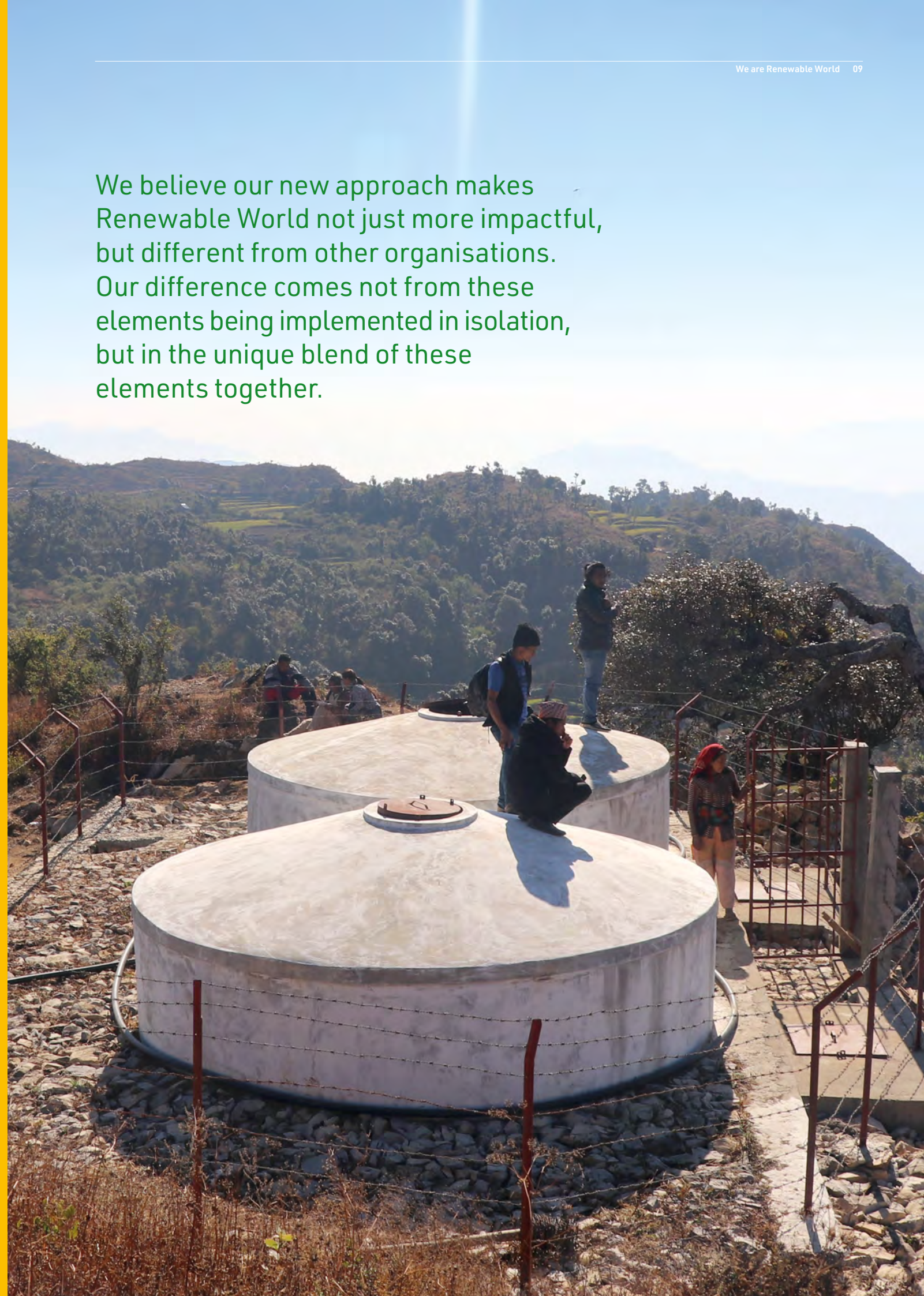
We have years of experience enabling locally led development that is sustainable through our Community Centred Model (CCM) approach. Through our new strategy, our impact will be even more transformative, with greater potential to scale. Where feasible, we will focus on enabling well-functioning markets that work for the poor. We will achieve this through embedding systems-thinking in programme design and implementation, drawing on the best of market system approaches and our CCM. We believe this adaptable, hybrid approach, is the best way of addressing the root causes of market failure and enabling sustainable solutions that reach the poorest.

3. Creating virtuous feedback loops for people and the environment

Local ecosystems and livelihoods are often inextricably linked. Improving livelihoods often puts unsustainable pressure on local ecosystems, with poverty and climate change compounding these pressures. Through our integrated approach to improving livelihoods and ecosystems through clean energy, we will help replace this vicious circle with a virtuous one. This will enable sustainable livelihoods that are in harmony with the environment.



We believe our new approach makes Renewable World not just more impactful, but different from other organisations. Our difference comes not from these elements being implemented in isolation, but in the unique blend of these elements together.



What we do

We focus on four inter-connected areas where we believe we can achieve the greatest impact in transforming lives and tackling climate change through clean energy.

Energy for Livelihoods

Improving incomes and welfare by using energy for productive purposes, with a focus on reaching the poorest and empowering women and the socially excluded.

Energy for Climate

Helping people adapt to climate change and protect ecosystems through clean energy enabled climate-smart agriculture and early warning systems, and mitigating climate change through clean energy.

Energy for Health and Education

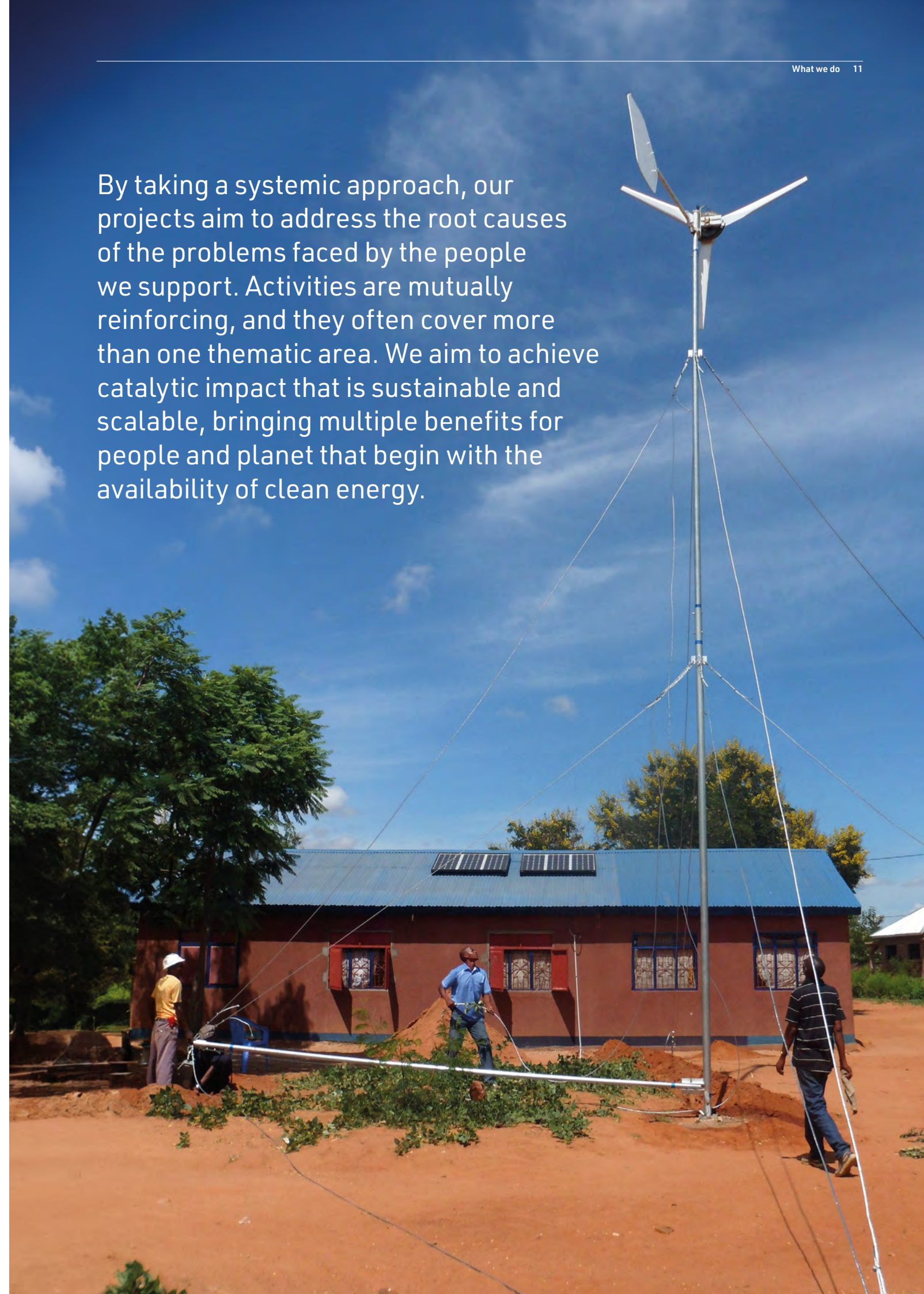
Using clean energy to supply clean water for drinking, health, and sanitation, electrifying remote health centres and schools to improve health and education outcomes, and enabling cleaner cooking.

Energy for Catalytic Impact

Catalysing systemic change through piloting scalable innovations, unlocking investment in clean energy, and working through sustainable partnerships.



By taking a systemic approach, our projects aim to address the root causes of the problems faced by the people we support. Activities are mutually reinforcing, and they often cover more than one thematic area. We aim to achieve catalytic impact that is sustainable and scalable, bringing multiple benefits for people and planet that begin with the availability of clean energy.



Access to clean, affordable, and reliable energy is essential for improving livelihoods and sustainable economic growth – which ultimately means healthier, happier, thriving people.



Energy for Livelihoods

Improving incomes

We enable people living in poverty in Nepal and East Africa to set up new businesses, improve existing ones, and sell their products and services at a fair price. Harnessing people's ideas and passion, whilst offering skills building and increasing market knowledge, can be all that's needed for budding enterprises to flourish. In this way they are able to transform their lives through increased incomes, creating and securing creation, and financial resilience made possible through the productive use of clean energy.



We do this through:

- Piloting innovative clean technologies and business models with potential to scale
- Enabling adoption of reliable and cost-effective technologies that increase the productivity of farmers and small businesses
- Facilitating partnerships, including communities, businesses, governments, and financiers
- Empowering people and communities to take advantage of these opportunities through training and institutional development.

Our new strategy builds on the last 15 years of experience, strengthening our existing approaches through embedding systems-thinking into our approach. We will increase our focus on addressing the root causes of problems, strengthening local markets so they work better for the poorest people, and influencing system and power dynamics.

Reaching the poorest

RW has historically focused on empowering some of the poorest and most remote, off-grid communities to design, own and operate clean energy assets. We will continue with this approach where community ownership is the most effective and sustainable mode of reaching the poorest.

We will increasingly apply systems approaches, working with a wider range of partners that are needed to create inclusive, well-functioning markets, and break-through innovations that work for the poor. Without these, the poor and marginalised will remain excluded, lacking the opportunities, jobs, goods and services they need to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods. In this way, we will continue to focus on the poorest, even if our partners become more varied.

Empowering women

Improving access to energy has a direct and profound impact on improving the lives of women who in most parts of the world, including East Africa and South Asia, spend more time than men cooking, and collecting water and fuel.

Our energy, water and improved cookstove projects help reduce the burden and drudgery of women's essential but unpaid labour. With this time, and access to energy, markets, and know-how, they can create better and more resilient futures for themselves, their families, and their communities.

We prioritise gender equality and social inclusion across all our work. In this strategic period, we will double-down on our work to influence institutional and societal norms that can lock some people into poverty, including through empowering women and marginalised groups by involving them in project design and governance.



Clean energy is critical for both mitigating climate change and enabling climate adaptation.

Energy for Climate

Through applying a systems approach, our projects typically:

- Help farmers adapt to changing weather patterns and withstand natural disasters
- Boost people's productivity, incomes, and financial resilience
- Avoid emissions through using clean energy technologies rather than fossil fuel or less efficient alternatives.



Climate adaptation

As the climate changes, farmers urgently need improved tools, technologies, and knowledge to adapt their approach and the crops they choose to grow.

Through our partnerships, we facilitate the deployment of climate-smart agriculture techniques and technologies – like solar-powered drip irrigation systems, cold storage, organic fertiliser, and crop processing equipment – which improve yields, preserve fresh produce, and reduce carbon emissions. With our agronomic, operational, and financial advice, plus support on accessing markets, inputs, and supply chain management, we help farmers make their businesses more effective and profitable.

In our new strategy, we will continue to build our expertise in using clean energy to enhance natural ecosystems, including conservation areas, alongside the livelihoods of those who depend upon them. We will also develop our expertise and partnerships in regenerative agriculture which is good for farmers and good for the planet.

Early warning systems

Climate-related events, such as flooding and fire, are increasing in frequency and intensity. Our solar-powered early warning pilot project projects have enabled communities prepare for and respond to hazardous climate related events, saving lives, incomes, homes, and other assets.

We will scale up and broaden our work in this area, including expanding our flood warning programme in Nepal, in coordination with local and national governments as well as communities, and applying early warning systems to help reduce human wildlife conflict in conservation zones.

Mitigating climate change

Our projects mitigate climate change in several ways. We introduce clean energy powered technologies in place of fossil fuel alternatives, such as diesel generators. Through the adoption of improved agricultural techniques, biogas digesters, and productive use equipment – such as solar-powered grinders, dryers and coolers – our projects help reduce emissions from the decay of agriculture and livestock waste. Improved cookstoves avoid emissions and improve health outcomes through dramatically reducing – or in the case of electric stoves, eliminating altogether – the burning of unsustainably managed biomass for fuel.

As we scale our programme size during this strategy period, we will scale our climate mitigation impact.



Over 21 million people in Kenya and Nepal lack access to energy, and even where they are connected to the grid, supply is unaffordable and unreliable. For these people and the facilities on which they rely, solar is often the most cost effective and reliable source of energy.



Energy for Health and Education



Access to electricity saves lives and creates better futures. Electricity is essential for delivering health services 24 hours a day, in powering critical health equipment and storing medicines and vaccines. It is also critical for digital learning which is increasingly important for improving education quality. More broadly, electricity enables children to study in the evening, and can be used to pump water to improve hygiene and sanitation for school children and those visiting health centres.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

We are experts in solar-powered water pumping for multiple uses (Solar MUS), having installed over 40 community-level systems to date. We typically integrate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) into our water lifting projects. Alongside the installation of solar water lifting systems, we provide training and information on safe water and hygiene. WASH will continue to be a focus in our new strategy.



Electrifying social infrastructure

We are experienced in supporting local governments to install solar energy systems in health and education facilities. Off-grid rural health clinics lack lighting, equipment and refrigeration, and people are at risk of dying from preventable and treatable diseases, especially diarrheal and respiratory infections. Through clean energy, off-grid schools can pump clean water for drinking and sanitation improving school attendance and health and education outcomes, especially for girls.

In this strategy, we will expand our work in this area, exploring new partnership models that are sustainable and have potential to scale, including with the private sector.

Clean cooking

Traditional cooking generates harmful fuels that households use every day to put food on the table. Through promoting and facilitating access to improved biomass cookstoves, we help improve people's livelihoods and health, and reduce carbon emissions.

We will continue to support clean cooking in our new strategy, including piloting electric cookstoves in communities with grid access. We have prepared an improved biomass cookstove project in Nepal, which we listed on the Gold Standard registry in 2022. We will explore financing options for potential launch during this strategy period.



In everything that we do, we apply systems thinking and locally led design, so that our projects address the right problems, are innovative, and deliver sustainable and scalable impact.



Energy for

Catalytic Change

We call this catalytic change. We achieve this through piloting scalable innovation, unlocking investment, and sustainable partnerships.

Scalable innovation

As go-to experts in clean energy, we believe in the power of innovation. We pilot new technologies and business models and facilitate and mobilise others to take them to scale – particularly the private sector and government. This includes productive use equipment for boosting agricultural productivity, biogas, solar water lifting, ice-making, energy storage and early warning systems.

Our new strategy will see us partner with private sector innovators, as well as procuring from them. They have the innovations. We offer deep experience in applying innovative clean energy technologies and business models to deliver developmental and climate impact, in mobilising stakeholders, in project delivery, and in gender equality and social inclusion.

Unlocking investment

Through our livelihoods work, we have become experts in the productive use of energy. We work with communities, manufacturers, suppliers, funders, and buyers to unleash the economic opportunities made possible through access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy. We work with governments to take these to scale, including through unlocking government grants for the most promising technologies.

As well as directly improving people's livelihoods, increasing energy consumption through productive use can help unlock investment from the private sector in clean energy production and distribution, and help make sure existing energy services remain viable.

With our expertise in piloting innovation, livelihoods development, demand-modelling, multi-stakeholder mobilisation and project structuring, this is an area where Renewable World aims to play a catalytic role in the future.

Sustainable partnerships

Partnerships are key to delivering our transformational impact. We work closely with communities, local NGOs, governments, and other market actors to form the right partnerships to deliver sustainable impact. We provide only the grant finance needed to make the project happen, and leverage investment from communities, government, or the private sector, often all three. Our role is often one of facilitator, demonstrator, and evidence-based advocate. This increases sustainability and means our money goes further.

We are increasingly applying market systems approaches as we believe well-functioning and accessible markets are critical for transforming lives and tackling climate change. But for many off-grid rural communities, while creating market

linkages is critical, there is no functioning market to operate energy services. For these communities and in other relevant contexts, we apply our Community Centred Model (CCM) approach which empowers communities to access the tools, skills and systems needed to transform their lives. In many of our programmes we deploy a hybrid approach.

Through this strategy, we will build on our wide-ranging partnerships with communities, local NGOs, governments, and other market actors. As well as private sector innovators, we plan to expand and deepen our partnerships with larger implementers, with whom we will partner as clean energy and locally led, systemic development experts.



Measuring our impact

We are a results-focused organisation, tracking our performance and impact through spend, activities, outputs, and outcomes, using a mixed of quantitative and qualitative data.

Our Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework has been updated and enhanced to align with our new strategy and underpins our work. Every year, we will report our results and learnings.



Where we work

During this strategy period, we plan to grow our Nepal programme, scale up our innovative programme in Kenya, and expand to a second African country to increase our reach and impact.



We will scale up our ambitious and innovative programme in Kenya, which was re-launched in 2022, building on a decade's experience. With its relatively well-developed private sector and funding environment, we will aim to pilot innovation in Kenya, and carve out an important niche in supporting demand activation, working with communities, the private sector, and government to unleash the power of energy through its productive use and facilitating private sector investment.

We plan to expand to a second Africa country by 2026, with Kenya as our regional hub, and we will be agile in seizing appropriate funding and sub-contracting opportunities to initiate programming in on other countries when aligned with our strategy.

East Africa

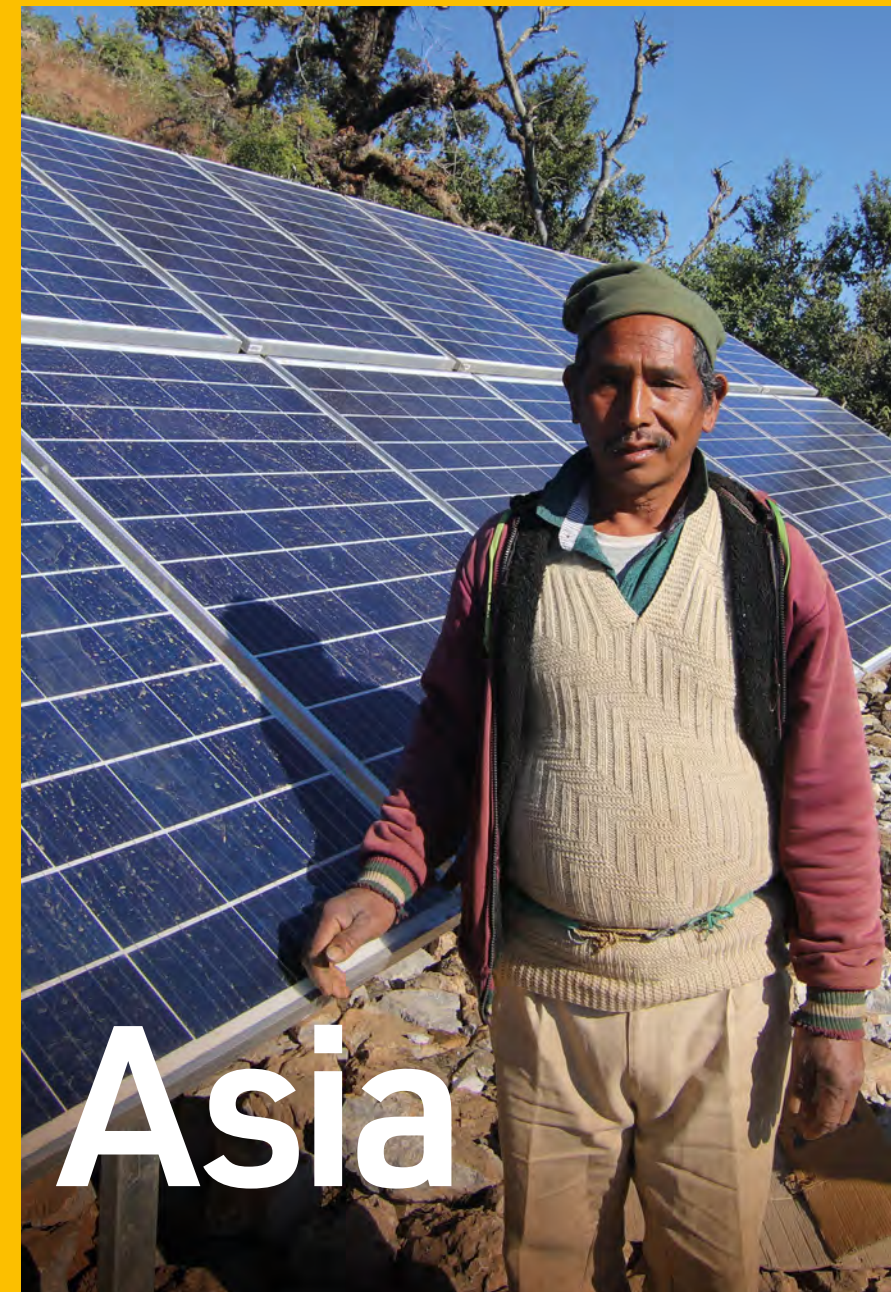


Over recent years, we have concentrated our South Asia programme in Nepal. We will launch a new programme of innovative and larger projects during this strategic period that will be even more sustainable and impactful. This will be spearheaded by CONNECT, our flagship conservation livelihoods project, delivered in partnership with Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA), the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and local partners.

We will continue to support Nepal's off-grid communities for whom access to energy can be transformational. We will also increasingly partner with poor on-grid communities, empowering them to make use of the energy they have, augmented with more reliable and affordable clean energy technologies where appropriate. We will take a systemic approach, focusing on how energy and other support can contribute to well-functioning markets through which people in poverty can transform livelihoods, health, and education outcomes, and adapt to climate change.

We will continue to focus our projects in Karnali, Sudurpashchim, and Lumbini provinces in Nepal, building on our hub and spokes model, with offices in Surkhet and Gulmi districts. This approach enables us to develop local partnerships and influence that extend well beyond individual projects. This is key to effective locally led development and catalytic change.

Building on strong foundations, we will develop our Nepal office into a centre of excellence, expanding both technical and operational capabilities and deployment across our global programmes.



South Asia

Our people

We are stronger because of our people. They make us a go-to expert in clean energy and systemic and locally led development. Our people are motivated by a shared passion for what we are doing, knowing we are pushing boundaries to deliver transformative impact.

Our people are our key asset, and live and breathe our values. These frame the culture, behaviours and capabilities needed to deliver our impact across the world.

Diversity, equality and inclusion

Increasing diversity, equality, and inclusion (DE&I) runs throughout our work as we seek to empower the poorest and most marginalised people to transform their lives, including women and girls. It is also at the core of how we think and operate. We ensure that staff have equal access to opportunities, that differences are valued, and that we create an inclusive environment for everybody.

In this strategy, we will seek to strengthen DE&I further through our approach to board and staff appointments, rolling out an improved and more transparent approach to Learning & Development, and through a participative approach to identifying and implementing staff survey follow up.

Our supporters

We are fortunate to have incredibly innovative, supportive, and loyal funding partners, many of whom have supported us over several years and several projects. We couldn't deliver our impact without them.

To achieve our ambitions, we will significantly scale our programme over the next three years, while tightly controlling spend. We will need to increase the size of our typical projects to achieve this. As well as continuing to build critical sources of unrestricted from generous individuals, we will build larger, multi-year partnerships. This will include increasing sub-contracting as energy and systems experts to large organisations.

Our operations

Improving efficiencies in our operations, finances, and systems will facilitate us to achieve greater impact for every pound we spend. We have made great strides in developing and implementing robust policies and procedures.

In this strategy period, we will continue to operationalise our policies and procedure rigorously and efficiently, applying the best practices developed in Nepal to our East Africa Programme. We will automate and align processes and systems where possible, including programme and financial reporting, ensuring we are making best use of the technologies we have available – e.g. collaborative working, software, and systems optimisation and integration.

Our values

Excellence

Our effectiveness is built on a solid foundation of specialist competence and pioneering innovation, built up over many years of experience and learning. We strive to be the best at everything we do as we know it makes a huge difference for the communities we support. Being at the forefront of systemic, community-level change requires an open and creative mindset that always seeks to improve.

Networked

As a small charity, we understand that our impact is multiplied significantly when we work in collaboration with others. We operate as one unified team within Renewable World and build effective partnerships with like minded people and organisations who share our passion to fight the effects of poverty and climate change.

Empathy

We recognise that our interventions have fundamental impact on the livelihoods of the communities we serve. We show great respect and responsibility for the beneficiaries of our work and for our Renewable World colleagues. We endeavour to be supportive and act with humility in everything we do. We listen carefully to better understand the needs of others.

Resourceful

We, and the communities we serve, must maximise the effectiveness of our finite resources. As we grow Renewable World's reach and impact, we think carefully about how to sustain our energy so we can maintain high levels of productivity over long periods – and recharge when necessary. We act entrepreneurially to take advantage of new opportunities when they arise and strive to deliver value in everything we do.

Gravitas

Delivering the most powerful outcomes possible requires us to influence policy makers and governments at all levels. Using real-world evidence and best-practice expertise gathered from our programmes, we advocate for real change to happen. We stand tall and pride ourselves on being trustworthy and credible partners that people listen to.

Yes we can

Every Renewable World employee is driven to make a purposeful impact on the world. We are inspired every day by the work we do and take great pride in the value it creates. We strive to create an environment that is enjoyable to work within and where achievements are celebrated together.

We are on a mission

We enable people living in poverty to transform their lives by improving their access to clean energy, empowering them to develop sustainable and resilient livelihoods, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

Transformative change for people and the planet can only be achieved through partnership, and we all have an important role to play, however big or small. Though the challenge is much bigger than us, we know it can be done. We won't rest until it is.

If you are passionate about our mission, get in touch. Let's transform lives and tackle climate change together.

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