

6 Reasons the Whole World Is Shifting to Renewable Energy



Source: [EcoWatch](#)

We've said it before but it bears repeating: the global shift to [clean energy](#) is on today. Not 10 years from now. Not 50 years from now. Today.

We're already seeing the benefits too in a whole host of sectors. And those below are just for starters. Which highlights why—with the Paris agreement about to go into effect and momentum building for action across the planet—it's critical for those of us committed to creating a sustainable future to [support world leaders working to drop dirty fossil fuels and expand clean solutions today](#). Read on to learn more.

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1. Renewables are Reducing Global Poverty and Expanding Energy

Access



Currently, nearly one-fifth of the world's population lacks access to electricity, most in rural areas of the developing world unable to connect to power grids. But with [solar](#), batteries, LED lights and efficient appliances getting more affordable all the time and entrepreneurs developing new approaches both to technology and support for rural communities, it shouldn't be for long. Fortune magazine, for example, last year hailed off-grid solar in Africa as "[tomorrow's hot market](#)." Meanwhile, projects in Bangladesh, Peru and rural villages of India are bringing electricity where there was once none—all through the power of the sun.

2. Clean Energy Saves Lives and Makes the World More Secure



With a warming [climate](#) come the challenges of ensuring food and water security for millions, sometimes spurring human migrations and further destabilizing vulnerable countries. But when we embrace clean energy, as militaries around the world are doing, the benefits can be big. Not only is it cutting costs, this choice is actually making our world more secure. Now that's something worth fighting for.

3. Clean Energy Helps Improve Public Health



It's simple: Burning fossil fuels pollutes our air, water and land, exposure to this pollution can result in deadly illnesses. Harnessing the power of the sun, wind and water ... well ... it doesn't pollute our precious resources. With clean energy, we can all breathe (and drink and farm) easier.

Related Article: [100% Clean Energy Economy Is Much Closer Than You Think](#)

4. We Protect Forests and Reduce Deforestation



Clearing the planet's forests accounts for approximately 15 percent of global emissions—that's about the same, if not slightly more, than transportation. But countries like Brazil and India are creating policies to drastically reduce deforestation as key parts of their strategies for cutting greenhouse gas emissions and meeting their commitments in the Paris agreement. When we protect forests, which store hundreds of billions of metric tons of carbon worldwide, we're keeping that carbon where it belongs. We speak for the trees and we say thanks!

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