

# IGC energy and growth conference

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The International Growth Centre (IGC) invites you to express interest in attending our upcoming conference, “**Energy and growth: Challenges and opportunities for developing countries**” in London on **12-13 November 2015**.

The IGC welcomes participants from academia/research institutes, policymakers/government, and the private sector. If you are interested in attending, please apply using [this link](#) by the submission deadline of **15 October**.

The conference will focus on themes including:

- Improving grid services and power sector reform
- Rural electrification
- Energy efficiency and renewables
- Externalities of electrification

The IGC aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. The IGC is based at the London School of Economics (LSE) in partnership with the University of Oxford. The IGC has a wide network of world-class researchers who can offer assistance to policymakers and energy practitioners interested in designing evaluations of energy projects.

The conference will offer opportunities:

- To connect with a network of researchers, policymakers and practitioners working on critical issues related to energy and growth in developing countries
- To share cutting edge findings from academic research alongside learnings and best practices from policymakers
- To identify opportunities for future research and form collaborations with new research partners based in developed and developing countries

Speakers will present on research in progress, recently published work, and/or policy learnings from innovative projects or initiatives.

The IGC will be able to cover accommodation and economy travel expenses for most conference speakers and selected participants. Graduate students and researchers or policymakers based in Africa or South Asia are especially encouraged to apply.

The IGC operates in 14 countries in Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia) and in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, and Pakistan).

Conference participants will be invited to apply for energy research grants during IGC's upcoming funding opportunities. For more information on IGC research in the energy sector, including a more detailed description of the conference themes and research questions, see [www.theigc.org/research-themes/energy/](http://www.theigc.org/research-themes/energy/)

# Conference themes and research questions

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## 1. Improving Grid Services and Power Sector Reform: Increasing Revenues and Minimizing Losses

- What power sector reforms have worked and how?
- How can the quality of grid services be improved? What strategies can increase willingness to pay for better service?
- What are the tradeoffs between focusing on improved access for households versus firms?
- What is the potential for technologies like pre-paid cards, smart meters, or other schemes to improve quality?
- How to prevent electricity theft?

## 2. Rural electrification: Potential and Limitations of Off-Grid Solutions

- What are the best solutions for areas with low population density, low willingness to pay, and high costs of operation?
- What is the role and cost-effectiveness of stopgap measures like minigrids, solar panels, etc. and how can these measures support longer-term solutions?
- How best to roll out expansion of the grid?

## 3. Energy Efficiency and Renewables

- What are the best methods to encourage investments in energy efficiency?
- What are success cases where barriers to investment have been overcome and how?
- What is the role of municipality reforms and decentralisation in ensuring energy efficiency and energy access?
- What are the barriers and challenges to successful largescale renewable energy growth?
- What policy mechanisms and planning tools are needed to encourage use of renewables?

## 4. Externalities of Electrification

- How can the negative external costs of energy consumption be minimized?
- What are the effects of energy on health, welfare, pollution and climate change?
- What is the willingness to pay for reducing these effects, and what strategies can build this willingness to pay?