

The EAI has launched two new tools for electrification practitioners in Sub-Saharan Africa



The Africa Electrification Initiative (AEI) has launched two new tools that will bolster its ability to build capacities, provide technical assistance and share information in Sub-Saharan Africa. The tools result from a June 2009 Maputo workshop which set out to create long-term information dissemination mechanisms for electrification practitioners in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The tools include a new interactive [knowledge management website](#) (which hosts presentations, tools and results of the June 2009 Maputo workshop) that will allow information sharing and live discussions and the online [archive of operational documents](#), resulting from a collaboration between AEI and the Public-Private-Partnerships in the Infrastructure Resource Center for Contracts, Laws and regulations ([PPPIR](#)). The objective of the three-year AEI project is to create and sustain a body of practical knowledge and a network of Sub-Saharan African practitioners that will focus on grid and off-grid electrification programs in rural, peri-urban and urban settings. AEI is housed under the Africa Renewable Energy Access Grants Program (AFREA) managed by the World Bank's Africa energy unit ([AFTEG](#)), and funded by the Netherlands through the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program ([ESMAP](#))'s Clean Energy Investment Framework Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

AFREA's activities include capacity building, technical assistance, advisory services, economic and social studies which directly create enabling conditions for increased renewable energy investments and expanding access to modern energy, and mainstreaming good practice in gender sensitivity analysis for AFREA Initiatives. Other activities focus on workshops and training, dissemination of information such as case studies, best practices and lessons learned etc. to public and private organizations.

Innovative AFREA initiatives are the Lighting Africa Development Marketplace competition which has already awarded over 3,3 million USD grants to 16 winners for innovative design and delivery of low cost, high quality, non-fossil fuel based lighting products targeting off-grid, low income consumers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Another innovative activity is the Biomass Energy Initiative for Africa (BEIA) which intends to identify and pilot new approaches and innovations for efficient, cleaner and sustainable usage of biomass energy in the sub-continent, with the aim to overcome the traditional methods and provide guidance on how to modernize biomass energy production and usage. [More details](#).