



UNEP GUIDE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY LAWS



UNEP Guide for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Laws

United Nations Environment Programme,
Pace University Law School Energy and Climate Center



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Foreword



The Renewable Revolution

A revolution in the way we generate energy is driving a complete overhaul of the sector and its regulation. For the first time in history, most of our new energy capacity comes from renewable sources. What's more, in the nine years since first publishing this handbook, investment in the sector has nearly doubled. In response to such dramatic developments, this revised edition explores the latest laws promoting efficient and renewable energy projects.

The progress being made in the development and deployment of renewable energy is real cause for celebration around the world, from the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative to project funding from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. The plummeting price of solar and wind energy makes them competitive with fossil fuels or nuclear options. Larger offshore wind projects create fewer environmental problems. A growing number of rooftops are becoming sources of power. Smart-grids, micro-grids and affordable storage provide more reliable distribution for developed urban areas and disadvantaged rural ones. Major improvements in power efficiency, technology and management are reducing waste, cost and emissions.

In fact, as access to renewable energy expands, so do the social, economic and environmental benefits, making it vital to the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. However, realising the full potential of this sector requires careful legislation. Therefore, the handbook provides options for emerging areas, such as the geothermal industry, but also highlights many examples where legislation is already proving effective, including the creation of efficiency standards and labelling for consumer products and increasing rural access to clean, safe options for cooking and heating.

To maintain the necessary pace of progress, decision makers at all levels of both the public and private sector need the best legal tools and information. This handbook remains the only

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