

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON

THE DEVELOPMENT OF DECARBONISING STRATEGIES IN THE INDIAN STATES

September 29, 2023 | Vivanta Ahmedabad (SG Highway) | Gujarat

Context

India has set ambitious targets for the deployment of Renewable Energy (RE) and decarbonisation in the pursuit of its stated climate goals. At the 26th Conference of Parties (COP) held in Glasgow in 2021, India made a bold commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2070, signifying a strong determination to combat climate change and contribute to the global effort to reduce carbon emissions. According to the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs), India now stands committed to reduce its emission intensity by 45% from 2005 level and achieve 50% installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. While the updated NDCs also represent the framework for India's transition to cleaner energy for the period 2021 to 2030, it also has committed to increase its carbon sinks by 2.5 to 3 Billion Tonnes of CO₂e by 2030.

In order to meet its ambitious goal, India requires a significant and rapid transition in both the energy and non-energy systems across the country. While national targets, policies, and programmes are essential, they alone may not be enough to reach this goal. Therefore, the individual states in the country have a critical role to play in achieving this transition.

Each state has its unique socio-economic profile, energy consumption patterns and resources, natural resources and management amongst others, which implies that each state must develop and implement its own strategies and plans to decarbonise their respective economies.

From an energy perspective, states need to go beyond meeting their Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) and take additional measures to promote RE deployment, energy efficiency, etc. Gujarat, for example, has already made significant progress towards its target of 30,000 MW of renewable energy capacity by 2022 by *achieving ~90% of its stated target, as on 2022*. Similarly, Tamil Nadu has already achieved its target of 40% renewable energy generation by 2022. However, some states are still lagging behind and need to accelerate their efforts to meet their targets. It's crucial for all states to prioritise their efforts towards achieving their targets and accelerating the transition to clean energy to achieve India's national goal of net-zero emissions by 2070.

Furthermore, the states need to collaborate and coordinate with each other and with the Central Government to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. This will require sharing best practices, data-driven analysis, and modelling efforts to understand the impacts and challenges of decarbonising each sector and developing feasible and effective strategies. In summary, for India to achieve its target of net-zero emissions by 2070, states must play an active and significant role in the transition journey. They need to develop their own strategies and plans, go beyond current targets, implement innovative policies, and collaborate with each other to accelerate the transition.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON

THE DEVELOPMENT OF DECARBONISING STRATEGIES IN THE INDIAN STATES

September 29, 2023 | Vivanta Ahmedabad (SG Highway) | Gujarat

About the workshop

In this context, Vasudha Foundation (VF) in collaboration with the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) and Gujarat Ecology Commission (GEC) is organising a workshop at the regional level with the following objectives:

Stakeholder Collaboration:

The workshop intends to bring together a pool of stakeholders and sector experts working at the state and regional levels to discuss possible low-carbon pathways in the Indian states. Decarbonisation strategies tailored to the specific needs and challenges of each state are needed through comprehensive dialogue and discussion. Thus, the workshop aims to strengthen collaboration between economy-wide stakeholders, including but not limited to, State-level nodal agencies, System operators, distribution utilities, policy institutions, and academia.

Data Transparency:

Achieving a decarbonised economy across the states would require a holistic framework for the validation of data available within the departments in the state. The robustness of data availability thus would provide a direction to viable pathways towards modelling a net zero emissions economy. Lack of data availability and transparency within the state's jurisdiction is currently hindering the planning efforts undertaken by various institutions. Thus, the workshop aims to understand the role of data availability, challenges, and collaboration across various state departments.

Decarbonisation Roadmap:

Identifying challenges in achieving medium to long-term decarbonization pathways in the state is inevitable. Hence, the workshop is intended to understand recommendations from the stakeholders towards firming the pace of decarbonisation. This will help various stakeholders put their views on cross-sectoral collaboration within the state. To chart out low-carbon roadmaps, various tools and planning methodologies would be discussed which would be helpful to the state authorities. The current planning methods used across the state authorities would be discussed and a possible scope of refinement be recommended.

