Ensuring full public confidence in renewable energy technologies has emerged as a key factor for fast-tracking their deployment, which is vital to achieve a sustainable energy future. The Coalition for Action to Bolster Public Support for Renewable Energy - established in January 2014 at the fourth Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) - aims to communicate clear, truthful messages on renewable energy with the public and decision makers around the world.

The Coalition collects authoritative, consistent, up-to-date evidence and makes it accessible to everyone through a wide range of channels, including web portals, media articles, publications, social networks and public dialogue.

Leading advocates from both industry and civil society, who first gathered at IRENA’s Workshop on Social Acceptance of Renewable Energy in Abu Dhabi in October 2013, agreed that misperceptions and factual inaccuracies could undermine public support, resulting in lost opportunities worldwide. To overcome this barrier, they agreed to form a multi-stakeholder Coalition for Action.

The Coalition’s 36 founding members include diverse stakeholder groups from different countries, including utility companies, renewable energy manufacturers, industry association and civil society organisations, all sharing the common aspiration of realising a sustainable energy future. This global, multi-stakeholder approach ensures extensive evidence and balanced arguments, providing a solid foundation to address legitimate public questions and concerns about renewable energy technologies.

Join the Coalition for Action

Other stakeholders – big or small – who share common aspirations for a sustainable energy future are encouraged to also become a part of this global network promoting renewable energy facts, and to help strengthen the advocacy for the energy transition.

Coordination

IRENA hosts the key knowledge platform and facilitates global networking and information exchange among member organisations.

For enquiries about the Coalition for Action to Bolster Public Support for Renewable Energy, please contact IRENA:

publicsupport@irena.org
www.irena.org/publicsupport

Coalition for Action

to Bolster Public Support for Renewable Energy
www.irena.org/publicsupport

Activities

The Coalition for Action aims to maximise the impact of rational arguments over renewable energy by building consistent approaches through a network of communicators. It will work to identify the best communications strategy to influence media, opinion leaders and the public, while compiling and utilising a pool of irrefutable scientific evidence and avoiding inconsistent messages and overly emotional, unbalanced arguments. The Coalition will also help renewable energy advocates share resources, leverage existing channels to media and opinion leaders, and adapt materials locally.

The activities of the Coalition for 2014-2015 start with these four priorities:

1. Knowledge base
   Collect renewable energy facts and scientific evidence and provide quality assurance to ensure robust arguments.

2. Network of communicators
   Host a network of communications officers in the renewable energy sector, public agencies and media, and share the latest news, information, lessons and training opportunities.

3. Common communications material
   Produce visual and print materials promoting renewable energy facts that can be disseminated by all.

4. Responding to concerns and misconceptions
   Monitor media coverage and coordinate swift, collective responses among members when necessary, along with systematically engaging influential journalists and opinion makers.

Commitment

Coalition for Action member organisations have made the following commitments to the public:

- Support energy transition by promoting the sustainable use of renewable energy technologies;
- Make a compelling case for renewable energy by collectively compiling the latest knowledge and examples;
- Communicate renewable energy with the public through clear, truthful messages, in a manner that is both harmonised and targeted;
- Commit to addressing public concerns over renewable energy technologies by applying best practices and engaging concerned parties;
- Share evidence, communications material, ideas and contacts with fellow Coalition members to strengthen the cases and support for renewable energy.

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