



Leadership is required to move away from inefficient and harmful fossil fuel subsidies (SDG 12) towards sustainable energy systems with access to energy for all (SDG 7). Fossil fuel subsidies stood at about USD 425 billion in 2015. This is 7.5 times more than the amount of financing required for universal electricity access. Reforming subsidies has massive benefits as a means of implementation for the global transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies. Nevertheless, reform requires efforts from political leaders, civil society and sound information to be successful.

This side event presents opportunities for financing and delivering the SDGs through fossil fuel subsidy reform, with a focus on sustainable energy access. Speakers will present replicable strategies for fossil fuel subsidy reform with high benefits for poverty reduction, gender and the SDGs. These strategies include better targeting of subsidies and subsidy “SWAPs”, i.e. shifting fossil fuel subsidies towards sustainable energy solutions like renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as investments in public transport. The event will see the launch of a report on the interlinkages between energy access and fossil fuel subsidies.

The side event is organised by New Zealand on behalf of the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (“Friends”, <http://fffsr.org/>), with Finland, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway as co-organisers. The Global Subsidies Initiative of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD, <http://www.iisd.org/gsi/>) is coordinating the event.

Speakers

Moderator	Scott Vaughan, President and CEO, IISD
Opening remarks	Craig Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand
Panelists	Annika Lindblom, Secretary General, National Commission on Sustainable Development and Counsellor, Ministry of the Environment, Finland
	Anna Zinecker, Policy Advisor, IISD
	Ligia Noronha, Director, Economy Division, UN Environment

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Outline

18:30	Official start of the side event
18:35	Welcome by moderator short overview of the side event and panelists
18:45	Opening remarks (5 minutes) <u>Craig Hawke</u> , Permanent Representative of New Zealand
18:50	Fossil fuel subsidy reform for energy access and poverty reduction – short keynote presentations by panelists (5 minutes each) <u>Ligia Noronha</u> , Director, Economy Division, UN Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fossil fuel subsidies and the 2030 Agenda (TBC) <u>Annika Lindblom</u> , Secretary General, National Commission on Sustainable Development and Counsellor, Ministry of the Environment, Finland <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership by countries + national efforts (TBC) <u>Anna Zinecker</u> , Policy Advisor, IISD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting on target: Fossil fuel subsidy reform for universal energy access
19:10	Panel discussion , 20 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How can fossil fuel subsidy reform benefit the SDGs?- What is required to increase leadership and momentum on fossil fuel subsidy reform?- Which strategies can be employed to make sure that fossil fuel subsidy reform benefits the SDGs?
19:30	Questions from the audience, 5 minutes
19:40	Summary and closing by moderator