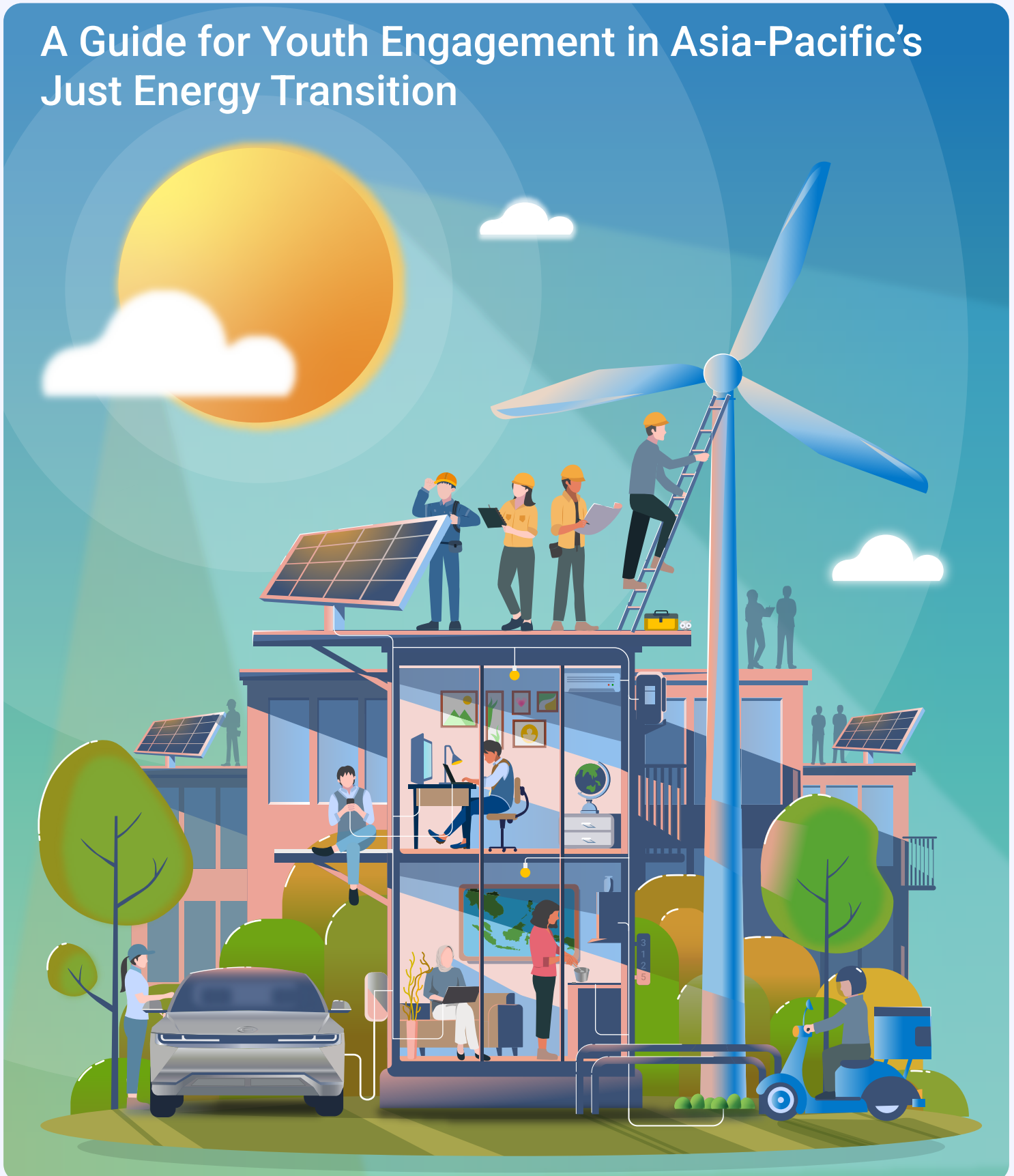


# YOUTH4JET



## Youth as Partners in Achieving SDG7

A Guide for Youth Engagement in Asia-Pacific's Just Energy Transition





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## Youth as Partners in Achieving SDG7

A Guide for Youth Engagement  
in Asia-Pacific's Just Energy Transition

United Nations publication

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# YOUTH4JET: Youth as Partners in Achieving SDG7: A Guide for Youth Engagement in Asia-Pacific's Just Energy Transition

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## WELCOMING REMARKS

The global energy transition is not only about transforming energy systems; it is also about transforming societies. In the Asia-Pacific region, home to nearly two-thirds of the world's youth, this transformation cannot succeed without meaningfully engaging young people. Youth are not just the beneficiaries of energy policies; they are essential partners, innovators and changemakers driving inclusive and just energy transitions across our diverse region.

This study, *Youth as Partners in Achieving SDG7 – A Guide for Youth Engagement in Asia-Pacific's Just Energy Transition*, represents a pioneering effort to understand, support and amplify youth engagement in the energy transition. It draws on extensive research, national-level assessments and first-hand experiences of youth leaders and organizations from across the region.

The report offers an honest reflection of the progress made, the challenges that persist and the immense potential that youth bring to the energy sector—as educators, entrepreneurs, policy advocates and community leaders.

The findings in this report are especially timely. ESCAP member States, through the outcomes of the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and the Committee on Energy, have reaffirmed their commitment to achieving SDG7 and ensuring that the energy transition is just, equitable and inclusive.

As the region moves forward in implementing its energy and climate goals, we must ensure that youth are equipped with the skills, opportunities and platforms to lead. This report provides practical recommendations for governments, energy companies, civil society and educational institutions to create a more enabling environment for youth leadership.

I commend the youth researchers and partners behind this important report. Let this be a starting point for deeper collaboration and lasting partnerships. Together, we can empower the next generation to drive the energy transition forward—one that is not only sustainable but also truly just and inclusive for all.

**Mr. Hongpeng Liu**  
**Director, Energy Division**  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Current state of youth engagement

The energy sector is central to achieving all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Asia-Pacific region, projected to account for over 45 per cent of both global energy supply and consumption, faces significant challenges, including 67 million people lacking access to electricity and the need to balance affordable energy provision with the expansion of low-carbon sources.

Guided by the Ministerial Declaration of the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) 2023, this ESCAP initiative, supported by the Russian Federation, seeks to empower youth through platforms for dialogue, collaboration and capacity-building. In doing so, it enables young people to contribute meaningfully to the region's just energy transition (JET).

This report, *A Guide for Youth Engagement in Asia-Pacific's Just Energy Transition*, examines the critical role of youth in advancing a JET, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region. The analysis is based on a mixed-methods approach combining desk research and interviews with young people predominantly aged 21–25 from youth organisations and NGOs, and addresses three priority areas:

- The current landscape of youth engagement in the energy sector
- Key enablers and barriers impacting youth participation
- Actionable recommendations for stakeholders to foster meaningful youth involvement

Youth engagement is understood as the active and meaningful participation of young people, enabling them to influence decisions within their communities and society at large. This encompasses a broad spectrum of activities, including capacity-building, research, advocacy and political participation.

Analysis indicates that youth engagement in the energy transition has gained considerable momentum through international initiatives and institutional frameworks, with the United Nations playing an important role. Across Asia and the Pacific, youth are increasingly mobilising through grassroots movements, community initiatives and policy advocacy. However, the extent and nature of engagement vary across 51 countries and sub-sectors, influenced by enabling policies, access to resources, institutional support and technical capacity.

The findings demonstrate that young people in the region are objective and innovative actors in the JET, well-positioned to balance environmental imperatives with socioeconomic considerations. They identify systemic barriers, advocate for the use of diverse technologies and propose localised solutions, making them indispensable partners in the present and future of the energy transition.

### Enablers and barriers

Survey results highlight both supportive conditions and persistent challenges in advancing youth engagement in SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and the JET.

Key enablers include:

- 66 per cent of respondents reported strong familiarity with SDG 7
- 65 per cent expressed solid understanding of the energy transition
- 69 per cent emphasised the key role that young people play as volunteers, project implementers and advocates

Respondents underscored the unique value of youth in contributing creativity, leadership and problem-solving skills. They noted that their strongest impact is often realised in grassroots projects, community leadership, advocacy and knowledge generation, which are more accessible and responsive spaces compared to formal institutions. Many respondents also highlighted the role of governments in establishing supportive environments and opportunities for youth to thrive.

Persistent barriers include:

- Limited access to resources (funding, technology and training)
- Gaps in mentorship, formal education and soft-skills development
- Difficulties in accessing finance, with youth-led initiatives often unable to demonstrate viability without seed capital
- Credibility and representation gaps across institutions (industry, academia, government and NGOs), limiting active youth participation

At the international level, youth participation is often tokenistic, providing visibility without substantive influence.

## Recommendations

To advance a just energy transition through meaningful youth engagement, coordinated and targeted actions are required, applying a whole-of-nation approach that harnesses collective efforts across sectors:

- ESCAP should sustain and expand platforms for dialogue, diversify capacity-building programmes, connect youth with policymakers and ensure broad access to knowledge, skills and resources.
- National governments should integrate youth into policymaking processes, enact supportive policies, allocate funding for youth-led initiatives and invest in energy literacy and awareness programmes.
- Energy companies should support youth-led groups and clean energy innovations, provide internships and mentorship and incorporate youth perspectives in their sustainability strategies.
- NGOs and civil society organisations should empower youth-led grassroots groups, strengthen advocacy capacity, provide training and build collaborative networks.
- Educational institutions should integrate the energy transition into curricula, foster participation in research and innovation, promote training for green jobs and establish partnerships with industry, government and NGOs to create career pathways.

These actions should be pursued through the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Youth Energy Engagement Platform designed to strengthen youth capacity, develop relevant skills and facilitate knowledge exchange at both national and regional levels.

## Conclusion

A Guide for Youth Engagement in Asia-Pacific's Just Energy Transition demonstrates that youth are indispensable partners in achieving SDG 7 and advancing a JET in the region. Despite persistent challenges, young people are mobilising, innovating and advocating for a sustainable energy future. By implementing the recommendations outlined, stakeholders can unlock the immense potential of youth—fostering a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable energy landscape for generations to come.

# INTRODUCTION

## About the research

The Ministerial Declaration of the Third APEF, held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2023, reaffirmed the importance of involving young people and youth-led, youth-focused organisations in the work of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels.

Building on this, ESCAP launched the project *Supporting Youth Empowerment for Energy Transition in the Asia and the Pacific* in September 2024, with support from the Russian Federation. This project seeks to empower youth in the region by providing platforms for dialogue, collaboration and capacity-building, thereby enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the energy transition.

## Background analysis

### SDG context

The energy sector is central to social and economic development and directly influences the achievement of nearly all 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

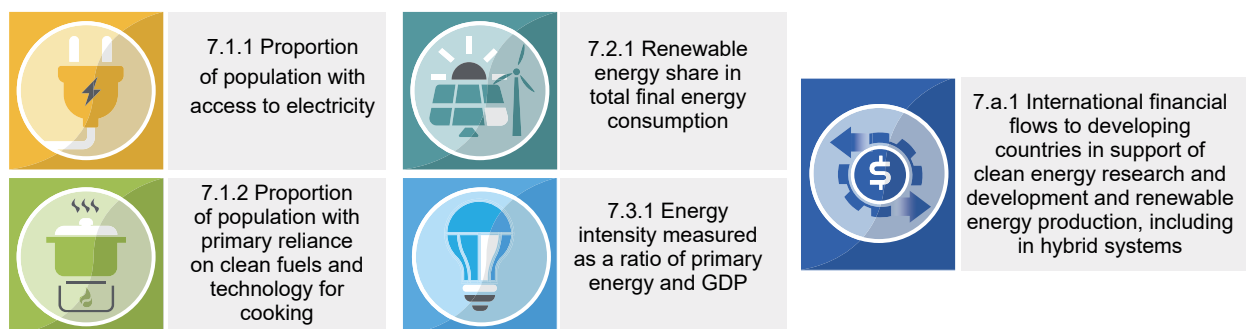
Across Asia and the Pacific, rapidly growing economies and populations are driving demand for reliable, affordable, modern and sustainable energy. The region is projected to account for over 45 per cent of the world energy supply, 43.2 per cent of total final energy consumption and 50 per cent of world electricity generation (International Energy Agency, 2022). This growth creates both opportunities and challenges in meeting sustainable energy targets (ESCAP, 2024).

Energy access is therefore not only a matter of energy policy, but also a critical enabler of progress across all SDGs. Sustainable energy policies are essential to overcoming barriers and leveraging opportunities for development at the regional and global levels.

Despite notable improvements, approximately 67 million people across the region still lack access to electricity. While near-universal access is expected by 2030 (United Nations, 2023), low access persists in several countries, particularly among Pacific Island States, disproportionately affecting children and young people. Power outages in underserved areas further highlight the need for resilient and inclusive energy systems.

Achieving universal access to modern, affordable and dependable energy services is the goal of SDG Target 7.1.

Figure 1. SDG7 Targets & Indicators



Source: United Nations (SDG 7 targets and indicators), compiled by ESCAP.

Although progress has been made in renewable energy adoption, fossil fuels – especially coal – remain the main sources of energy, generating approximately 56 per cent of electricity production (International Energy Agency, 2024). Barriers such as inadequate policy frameworks, limited financing and insufficient technical expertise hinder balanced investments in energy. Rapid urbanization, energy-intensive industries and ageing infrastructure exacerbate inefficiencies.

While global electricity demand continues to grow, progress towards SDG 7 remains uneven. Recent global crises—including the COVID-19 pandemic, economic shocks and climate change—have further slowed electrification rates and hindered energy development. In the Asia-Pacific, electricity demand rose by 4.8 per cent in 2023 and is predicted to expand at an average annual rate of 4.6 per cent through 2026, contributing substantially to global demand (International Energy Agency, 2024).

Acknowledging these challenges, international frameworks underscore the urgency of accelerated action to achieve SDG 7. United Nations General Assembly resolution A/79/437/Add.9 reiterates the global commitment to this goal, calling for investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and equitable access for underserved areas (United Nations, 2024). It also highlights the need for tailored technical and financial assistance, particularly for the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) (ESCAP, 2023).

### **JET context**

Given the centrality of energy to sustainable development, the international community increasingly prioritises the energy transition, as a key component of the 2030 Agenda. Energy transition issues are actively discussed within the United Nations and across international forums including Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Group of Twenty (G20), East Asia Summit, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and BRICS.

There is, however, no single definition of a “just energy transition”. Interpretations vary, reflecting the complexity of the issue and the fact that no universal pathway fits all countries. Each country must define its own transition targets in ways that are secure, equitable and environmentally sustainable, while balancing socio-economic development and national circumstances. The JET requires technological neutrality: all viable options should be considered, including renewable energy, low- or zero-emission solutions, energy efficiency, storage and advanced technologies such as carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) (United Nations, 2024).

Non-discriminatory access to international trade, finance and investment also underpins the transition. This includes removing barriers to technology transfer and fostering open, competitive and non-discriminatory energy markets (ESCAP, 2023). States play an important role in mitigating potential negative socio-economic impacts, such as job losses due to coal mine closures, subsidy reforms and increased system costs. A JET requires targeted investments to support affected communities and to amplify the voices of local stakeholders, particularly youth, in the transition process. Ensuring their perspectives are integrated into policymaking is essential for building sustainable futures.

### **Youth importance**

Youth engagement refers to the meaningful participation of young people in social, economic, political and environmental activities. It ranges, from activism and community service to policy advocacy and governance. Genuine engagement ensures that young voices are heard, valued and integrated into decision-making. Effective youth engagement also fosters leadership, responsibility and active citizenship (UNICEF, 2024).

Youth engagement plays a critical role in driving social change by bringing fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to pressing global challenges, especially in climate change and energy transition (World Economic Forum, 2022). With adequate resources and opportunities, they can be active agents of change by spearheading innovative environmental and social initiatives that address long-term resilience and sustainability. This strengthens governance by holding institutions accountable, advocating for inclusive policies and ensuring diverse representation (UNDP, 2023).

Youth engagement is both a right and a necessity for a just and sustainable future. Strengthening youth participation in governance, environmental sustainability and social justice creates a more inclusive and resilient societies (United Nations, 2022).

### Objectives

Youth, constituting 19 per cent of the population in Asia and the Pacific, will experience long-term impacts of energy policies, particularly those relating to the JET (ESCAP, 2013). Harnessing their potential and perspectives is therefore vital to advancing a sustainable future.

This guide aims to promote meaningful youth engagement in the JET by equipping them with the knowledge, tools and platforms to act. Its goals are to:

- 1** Provide a comprehensive overview of youth energy engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, encompassing the current landscape, achievements, priorities, advantages, and challenges.
- 2** Analyze and recommend solutions to the challenges faced by Asia-Pacific youth in implementing their energy initiatives.
- 3** Introduce best practices that youth in the Asia-Pacific region have initiated to contribute positively to the just energy transition.
- 4** Connect youth with regional energy-related organizations to create a dynamic, inclusive, and international network for effective youth participation and cooperation.
- 5** Facilitate connections between youth and stakeholders, including policymakers, to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and acknowledged.
- 6** Establish a platform to provide youth access to resources that enhance their engagement effectiveness, including professional knowledge, technical skills, financial resources, event management, etc.

### Problem and Scope

Youth participation in the energy transition varies widely across countries in Asia and the Pacific, influenced by policy frameworks, resources, institutional support and public awareness.

This research maps, assesses and categorises youth participation in shaping energy policies, advancing technological and leading advocacy across the region. The goal is to identify key enablers and barriers and to provide actionable recommendations for key stakeholders.

The scope includes youth organisations and networks representing ESCAP Member States, with analysis focused on developments since the 2010s.



# CHAPTER 1

## CURRENT STATE AND CLASSIFICATION OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



# CHAPTER 1: CURRENT STATE AND CLASSIFICATION OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC

## 1.1. Definition of Youth Engagement

### What is Youth Engagement?

The United Nations commonly uses “youth” as a statistical category referring to persons aged 15–24 years (United Nations, 2024). There is no universally agreed international definition; countries and organisations apply age ranges reflecting national policies and legal frameworks. For the purposes of this report, youth refers to persons aged 15–30 years, aligning the United Nations statistical definition with prevalent national classifications in Asia and the Pacific. Youth engagement is understood as the active and meaningful participation of young people in decision affecting their lives and communities, including social, economic, environmental and political processes (United Nations, 2007). Referring to Hart’s Ladder of Participation and United Nations Youth Engagement Principles Framework, meaningful participation includes youth-initiated and directed action and youth-initiated, shared decision-making with adults. In the energy sector, effective youth engagement contributes to decision-making and implementation across renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean mobility value chains (GFSE, 2021). Therefore, fostering youth engagement in the energy transition is imperative, as their active participation accelerates sustainable development and ensures a resilient and inclusive future energy landscape.

**Table 1. Youth age definitions in Asia-Pacific countries**

Region	Country	Youth Age Range	Source (Law/Policy)
South-East Asia	Indonesia	16–30 years	<u><i>Youth Law No. 40/2009</i></u>
	Malaysia	15–30 years	<u><i>Youth Societies and Youth Development Act 2007</i></u>
	Philippines	15–30 years	<u><i>Republic Act No. 8044</i></u>
	Thailand	15–24 years	<u><i>National Youth Policy</i></u>
	Viet Nam	16–30 years	<u><i>Youth Law 2005</i></u>
North East Asia	China	14–35 years	<u><i>Communist Youth League of China</i></u>
	Japan	15–34 years	<u><i>Youth Employment Policies</i></u>
	Republic of Korea	9–24 years	<u><i>Youth Basic Act</i></u>
	Russia Federation	14–35 years	<u><i>Federal Law on Youth Policy 2020</i></u>
South Asia	India	15–29 years	<u><i>National Youth Policy 2014</i></u>
	Bangladesh	18–35 years	<u><i>National Youth Policy 2017</i></u>
	Pakistan	15–29 years	<u><i>National Youth Policy 2012</i></u>
Central Asia	Kazakhstan	14–29 years	<u><i>Law on State Youth Policy 2015</i></u>
	Uzbekistan	14–30 years	<u><i>Youth Policy Law 2016</i></u>
	Kyrgyzstan	14–28 years	<u><i>Law on Youth Policy 2009</i></u>
The Pacific	Australia	12–24 years	<u><i>Australian Youth Policy Framework</i></u>
	New Zealand	12–24 years	<u><i>Ministry of Youth Development Definition</i></u>
	Fiji	15–35 years	<u><i>National Youth Policy 2012</i></u>

## Types of youth engagement

Youth engagement in energy commonly spans six modalities:

- **Capacity-building.** Strengthening capabilities through education, training and awareness-raising for young people and the organisations that support them (United Nations, 2021; Kusumaningrum et al., 2023).
- **Campaigning.** Designing and implementing awareness campaigns and public events, leveraging digital outreach to inform communities on energy and climate issues.
- **Advocacy.** Producing evidence-based inputs (policy briefs, dialogue, formal and informal consultations) to inform public policy (Kusumaningrum et al., 2023).
- **Research.** Generating data and analysis on energy-related topics, often in partnership with universities and public or private research associations (Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform, 2023).
- **Community aid.** Implementing youth-led innovations such as climate strikes, conservation, clean cooking, ecosystem restoration and local energy solutions.
- **Political participation.** Engaging in governance through youth councils and parliamentary mechanisms and in multilateral processes recognising young people as rights-holders (United Nations, 2024; Mortelliti, 2023).

## 1.2. Methodology for Analyzing Youth Engagement across Asia-Pacific

### Scope of study

The study maps youth engagement in the energy transition activities across Asia and the Pacific, examining geographic coverage, initiative types, stakeholder roles, thematic focus, levels of participation and influence and observed impacts. It also shows enablers and barriers that shape meaningful engagement.

### Research Method

A mixed-methods approach was applied:

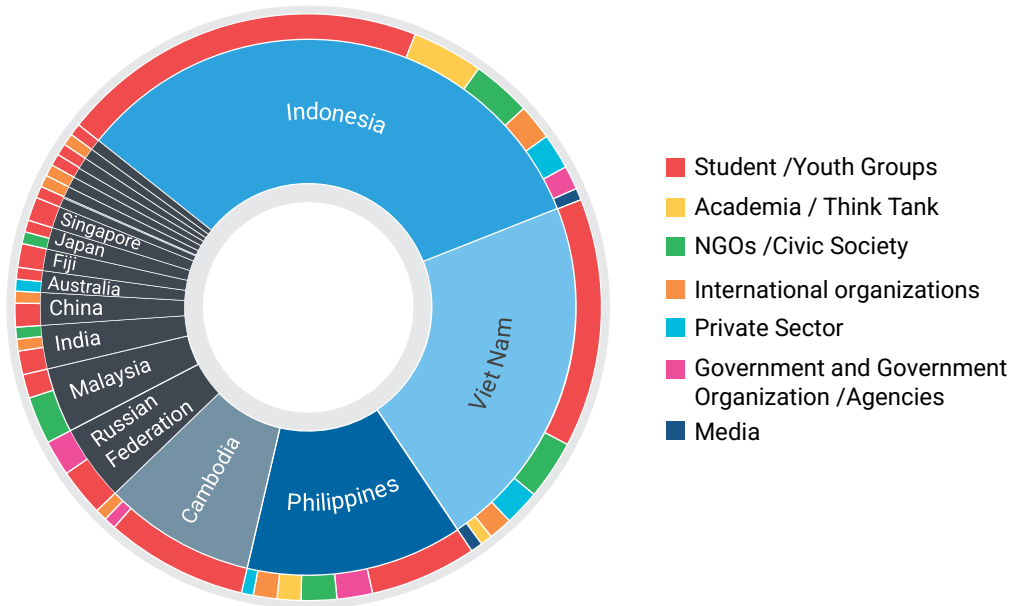
- 1. Desk Research.** A systematic review of publications, reports and academic studies on youth engagement in the energy sector (for example, UNDP, 2022; UNICEF, 2023). Outputs include mapping of initiatives by geography, participation level and thematic focus.
- 2. Surveys & Interviews.** Structured surveys and in-depth interviews with young people and institutional stakeholders (government, NGOs, private sector, international organizations and academia).
  - a. The online questionnaire (English) covered four sections: (i) Energy transition and SDG 7; (ii) Youth energy organisations; (iii) Youth engagement in energy; (iv) Stakeholders and enablers.
  - b. Responses were collected via researcher networks across more than 15 countries. Given the qualitative design, sampling was purposive; inclusion criteria were applied ex post. Online distribution enables diverse participation across geographies (Wald et al., 2019).

**Sample profile.** A total of 153 respondents took part; most were aged 21–25 (58 per cent). Respondents primarily represented youth groups (68 per cent) and NGOs (12 per cent) with a focus on environment/sustainability and energy. By combining quantitative and qualitative methods, the study provides both descriptive statistics and contextual insights to inform recommendations.

**Figure 2. Focus areas of respondent organisations**

**The majority of responses came from South-East Asia, with most identifying as part of student or youth groups**

Each segment represents a respondent's country (inner ring) and their organization type (outer ring).

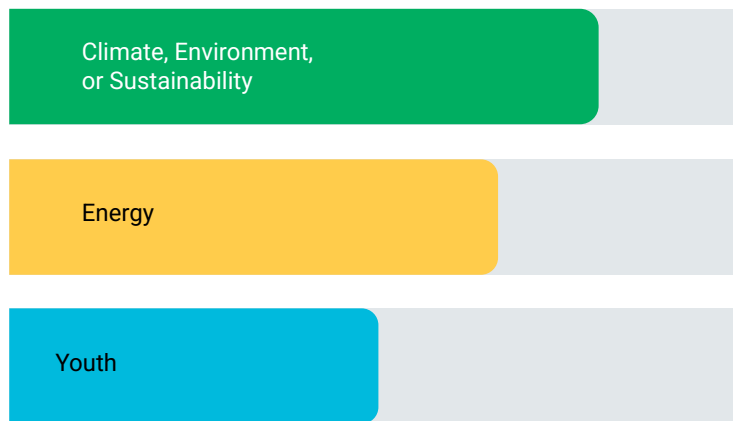


Data : Research team results

**Figure 3. Focusing areas of respondent organizations**

**Climate, environment, and sustainability are the most common focus areas among respondent organizations**

% of respondents selecting each topic in response to : "What interests and topics are of focus in your organization ?"



Data : Research team survey results

Source: ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025.

### Analytical framework

The framework adopts a structured analytical approach informed by methodologies used by government bodies, academia and NGOs. Studies by the Global Center on Adaptation (2021), UNDP (2022) and UNICEF (2024) follow similar patterns in assessing youth engagement; this research builds on those approaches.

## Framework stages

- 1. Mapping youth-engagement attributes** – classifying engagement to enable a structured analysis, following previous work that categorised participation across multiple dimensions. For example, the Global Center on Adaptation (2021) used a survey to assess general information, perceptions and knowledge of climate impacts before mapping engagement levels; UNDP (2022) used interviews to identify five attributes shaping participation: dimension, level, stage, stakeholder interaction and youth roles.
- 2. Assessing drivers and barriers** – analysing factors that shape participation in the energy transition, informed by methodologies such as the Adaptation Fund (2022), which combined document analysis, semi-structured interviews and surveys to assess youth participation in climate-adaptation projects. This study applies a similar approach, examining enabling factors and challenges and integrates case studies of successful youth-led initiatives to illustrate effective engagement models and good practices.
- 3. Formulating policy and programme recommendations** – deriving measures from the analysis, consistent with approaches such as UNICEF (2024) on youth engagement in India. Recommended solutions focus on strengthening youth representation in policymaking, developing skills for green jobs and enhancing institutional and financial support.

This framework integrates insights from prior studies to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to strengthening youth engagement in the energy transition.

## Attributes for classification

To ensure a structured and comprehensive analysis of youth engagement in the energy transition, the study identified a set of attributes derived from established frameworks, policy reports and academic studies on youth participation, sustainable energy and climate action. References include the UN Youth Engagement Principles (2021), Hart’s Ladder of Participation (1992), IEA and IRENA reports on the energy transition (2022) and OECD insights on youth and climate (2021). Consolidating these sources enables a standardised yet adaptable categorisation that reflects youth-led and youth-inclusive energy initiatives.

The selected attributes capture essential dimensions of youth engagement while avoiding unnecessary breadth or duplication. They balance practicality and depth to remain meaningful, actionable and replicable for different stakeholders. The attributes cover the geographic scope, level of engagement, key actors involved, thematic areas of energy transition and the extent of youth participation and influence. They also consider the youth roles, specific programmes and activities under initiatives, measurable impacts and existing challenges.

Table 2 presents the key attributes used to classify and assess youth engagement initiatives identified through this study.

**Table 2. Description of the key attributes of youth engagement**

Attributes	Description of the Attributes
Countries & Region Coverage	Geographic scope (local/national/regional/global) and country locations, enabling identification of active or underserved areas.
Initiatives	Youth-led or youth-inclusive entities (name, start year, mission and focus).
Key Stakeholders	Actors involved (government, NGOs, private sector, students, international organisations, academia, grassroots).
Areas of Energy Transition	Thematic focus (for example, renewable energy, energy efficiency and storage, transitional fuels, national circumstances and development priorities, innovation and technology access, financing, energy security, socio-economic co-benefits).
Level of Participation & Influence	From participation to youth-initiated, shared decisions with adults (assessing tokenism versus empowerment).

Attributes	Description of the Attributes
Key Roles Youth Play	Policy advocates, innovators/entrepreneurs, researchers, industry workforce, educators, community leaders, volunteers.
Programs & Activities	Specific actions (mapping, workshops, policy dialogues, meetups).
Impact of Initiatives	Quantitative and qualitative outcomes (membership, participation, policies influenced).
Challenges & Notes	Barriers and contextual details to interpret enablers and constraints.

As summarized in the table, each attribute is defined based on its relevance to youth engagement in energy transition efforts. This structure supports cross-comparison, trend identification and evidence-based insights for stakeholders.

### 1.3. Global Overview of Youth Engagement in Energy

Youth engagement is increasingly recognised as integral to energy-transition processes, spanning policy advocacy, innovation, technical contributions and community mobilisation (ESCAP, 2023; YECAP, 2023). The extent and nature of participation vary across countries and subsectors, shaped by enabling policies, access to resources, institutional support and technical capacity (PUSKAPA, 2023). Persistent challenges include tokenism and limited access to decision-making (UNDP, 2023). Even so, youth action continues to influence policy discourse, technological innovation and climate-justice movements (Habibie Center, 2024).

The United Nations recognises young people as stakeholders and implementation partners, not solely beneficiaries. The World Programme of Action for Youth provides a cross-cutting policy framework across 15 priority areas, including environmental sustainability and the energy transition. The Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change (established in 2020) amplifies youth perspectives in climate and energy strategies. The ECOSOC Youth Forum offers a formal venue for engagement with Member States on sustainable development, including energy, bringing together more than 1,000 young leaders in 2023.



#### Selected global mechanisms

**SDG 7 Youth Constituency** (United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth) – Established in 2020 as UN MGCY's energy working group (A/RES/67/290); convenes 200+ youth-led organisations; partners with IRENA, SEforALL, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Clean Energy Ministerial; delivers initiatives such as the NewGen Accelerator and IRENA-IACT toolkit events, with youth inputs represented in Conference of the Parties processes.

**YOUNGO** (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) children and youth constituency) – Advances equitable, sustainable energy governance through evidence-based inputs (for example, the Global Youth Statement at COP 28), the Road to the Energy COP literacy series and coalitions to institutionalise youth inclusion in decision-making.

**BRICS Youth Energy Agency** (BRICS YEA) – An international youth organisation fostering cooperation among BRICS and global South youth in energy research and projects; publishes the BRICS Youth Energy Outlook; participated in the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (2021); and, with partners, launched the Energy Transition Youth Commission at COP 27 under SEforALL.

**Youth4Climate** (Government of Italy and UNDP) – Supports youth-driven and youth-inclusive solutions via finance and capacity-building: a Call for Solutions backing 100 projects across 52 countries by 2024 (US\$2.5 million in total), an engagement platform of 18,000+ members and an annual flagship event that fosters inter-generational cooperation.

These mechanisms elevate youth perspectives and create pathways for participation in policy and practice, strengthening contributions to just and inclusive energy transitions. Building on these global mechanisms and norms, the next section applies a structured mapping to analysis how youth engage in the energy transition across Asia and the Pacific.

#### 1.4. Youth Engagement in Energy: Asia-Pacific Landscape

The analysis applies a structured set of attributes to assess youth engagement in the energy transition across Asia and the Pacific. The attributes cover geographic scope, initiative types, stakeholder involvement, thematic focus, levels of participation and influence and observed impacts. Together, they provide a systematic view of where, how and to what extent youth contribute to the energy sector—helping identify effective models, enabling environments and persistent barriers for policymakers and development partners (UNESCO, 2019). The analysis integrates national and subregional findings and recognises diverse pathways consistent with JET principles. It also informs the design of an Asia-Pacific Youth Energy Engagement Platform to strengthen participation, enhance contributions and foster just and inclusive transitions. Recognising youth as partners—not only beneficiaries—is essential to building equitable and resilient energy systems (GFSE, 2022).

Asia and the Pacific is highly vulnerable to climate change and a major contributor to global greenhouse-gas emissions, with energy production and consumption as key drivers (ESCAP, 2023). Nearly two-thirds of the world's youth live in Asia and the Pacific (UNICEF, 2021), positioning youth as a decisive constituency for shaping future energy policies and practices. Young people are increasingly mobilising through grassroots initiatives, community projects and policy advocacy to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access: awareness and access initiatives in Bhutan, the Maldives and Timor-Leste (YECAP, 2023); solar entrepreneurship in India and Bangladesh; state-facilitated innovation in the Russian Federation; and United Nations-backed community projects in Mongolia. Regional networks and international organisations amplify youth voices and expand opportunities.

Despite this momentum, many young people remain excluded from formal energy and climate decision-making—even where youth lead strategic litigation (Japan), constitutional petitions (Republic of Korea) and decentralised energy projects (Afghanistan). Exclusion undermines development outcomes, as energy insecurity can compromise rights to education and health. A more inclusive and participatory approach to the JET is therefore required.

### CASE-IN Engineering Championship

(Central Asia - Industry-Academia Innovation Model)

**Summary:** A state-backed industry-academia collaboration model that accelerates energy innovation while addressing regional specificities.

#### Practical illustration:

- Industry-driven problem-solving: teams of students and young specialists tackle real-world cases from leading energy companies, including hydrogen integration in Arctic LNG projects, AI-optimised grid resilience for extreme climates and CCUS retrofits for legacy power plants.
- Talent-pipeline development: over 65,000 participants since 2013; about 85 per cent of winners receive fast-track employment at partner companies; winning solutions are being piloted by major energy firms.
- Scalable model: originated in the Russian Federation; expanded to Kazakhstan (2019) and Uzbekistan (2023) via Eurasian Economic Union partnerships; adopted by Indian Oil Corporation as the Energy Mitra Challenge (2024); in 2025, CASE-IN hosted a championship for BRICS-country teams under the League of Young Professionals of the CIS and BRICS+; further expansion is feasible via existing regional organisations.
- Level of participation: level 6 — adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth (participants co-design solutions with industry mentors).

Across Asia and the Pacific, multiple platforms enable participation at regional and subregional scales. The Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) builds capacity and connects youth to high-level forums, with the YECAP Fellowship cultivating leadership and policy engagement. ESCAP's Supporting Youth Empowerment for Energy Transition project—of which this study forms a part—convenes regional stakeholders and youth actors. The Global Competition of Youth Voice on Energy Transition (2024) showcased youth-developed technologies during the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth on Climate Action (ASEANyouCAN) advances inclusion in nationally determined contribution processes, while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the IRENA support youth-led entrepreneurship and dialogue platforms. For socio-entrepreneurial initiatives, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Co:Lab fosters green innovation, including energy-storage and smart-grid solutions. However, participation remains uneven, with funding gaps in South and South-East Asia, technical skills shortages in Pacific small island developing States and urban-centric representation in Central Asia—constraints that call for integrated responses.

**Subregional patterns vary.** In North-East Asia, engagement is frequently institution-led through universities, research institutes and corporate partnerships, notably in Japan and the Republic of Korea. In China and the Russian Federation, state-supported platforms prioritise innovation, including strategies involving transition fuels, while opportunities for independent grassroots activism are more limited in some contexts. South-East Asia exhibits robust grassroots mobilisation—particularly in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand—coexisting with uneven policy integration and limited roles in formal decision-making. South Asia shows high potential with uneven implementation: youth contribute as technical implementers, community mobilisers and innovators—especially in decentralised solar—yet face funding gaps, socio-economic barriers and constrained policy influence. In the Pacific, youth frequently operate at higher rungs of participation, co-leading projects in solar microgrids, rural electrification and resilience, though scale is constrained by geography, technology maintenance challenges and reliance on external finance. In Central Asia, engagement is largely state-driven and institutionally structured, with emphasis on technical training and deployment; youth influence over strategies involving transition fuels and resource allocation remains limited and urban–rural disparities and gender gaps persist.

**Table 3 Summary of Youth Engagement in Energy per Sub-Region**

Factor	North-East Asia	South Asia	South-East Asia	Central Asia	The Pacific
<b>Youth Movements</b>	Institution-led with emerging litigation	Entrepreneurial focus	Strong grassroots activism	Government-driven with technical focus	Community-driven with high autonomy
<b>Policy Inclusion</b>	Highly structured, top-down	Limited participation	Growing but inconsistent	State-controlled engagement	Moderate, focused on climate adaptation
<b>Key Energy Focus</b>	Smart Energy, transitional fuels, energy security, nuclear energy	Solar dominance, decentralized grids, rural electrification, socio-economic development	Renewables, rural electrification, socio-economic co-benefits	Role of transitional fuels, clean fossil fuels, renewables	Climate resilience, renewables, rural electrification and energy security
<b>Barriers</b>	Limited grassroots autonomy	Bureaucratic inertia, funding access gaps, skills shortages, policy-execution divides	Funding access, technical capacity, exclusion from transitional fuels planning	Limited NGO activity, bureaucracy, urban-rural divide and limited women's inclusion	Technological maintenance in remote areas, intermittent funding and donor dependency

**Implications.** Region-specific approaches are required. In South and South-East Asia, expanded financing and technical assistance can strengthen youth-led clean-energy enterprises. In the Pacific, long-term, locally driven resilience projects can consolidate gains. In North-East Asia, technological capabilities can inform youth engagement in research and innovation, while participation pathways should diversify beyond state-sponsored programmes to broaden grassroots involvement. In Central Asia, participation pathways should also diversify beyond state-sponsored programmes.

## Youth Engagement in Energy: National Landscape

Asia-Pacific countries demonstrate diverse youth engagement models in energy transition, shaped by national circumstances. Our research has conducted a deep analysis of every country in the region, categorizing youth engagement according to the criteria outlined in the methodology. The full national-level assessment is provided in Annex I. Below is a synthesized overview of key national trends:

### North-East Asia

- **China.** Youth operate at Level 7 (youth-initiated and directed) in selected renewable R&D settings (for example, advancing hydrogen technologies and AI-driven grids). Government platforms enable young researchers to pilot low-carbon solutions, while NGOs (for example, China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN)) support public awareness. Energy policy engagement remains consultative (Level 5), reflecting a model that leverages youth talent alongside strategic oversight of energy security priorities.
- **Republic of Korea.** Legal frameworks (for example, Framework Act on Youth) enable Level 7 youth participation in policy advocacy and Level 6 in energy-specific roles. Priorities include digitalisation and energy storage, aligned with carbon neutrality objectives.
- **Japan.** Youth-led litigation challenging coal investments can reach Level 7. Participation in some state-led initiatives (for example, Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)) remains at Level 4 (assigned but informed), reflecting the prioritisation of system reliability and transitional fuels during the coal phase-out and differing timelines between youth advocacy and government transition planning.
- **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).** Operates at Level 2 (decoration), mobilising youth symbolically in state-led projects (for example, Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade). Focus areas include hydropower and rural electrification, but engagement lacks agency or technical autonomy.
- **Russian Federation.** Ministry-affiliated oil/gas and power industry councils enable Level 6 (adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth) co-design of workforce pathways. Youth highlights innovation linked to transitional fuels; broader geographical inclusion could be strengthened.
- **Mongolia.** UNDP-supported initiatives (Level 4) address rural energy poverty (solar heating, rural electrification); national-level policy inclusion remains limited.

### Mongolia Youth Climate Innovation Program

(North Asia – Youth-Led Climate Model)

**Summary:** A UNDP-supported programme in Mongolia empowering youth to develop innovative solutions to climate change and promote sustainable development.

#### Practical illustration:

- **Green-skills development:** equips youth with twenty-first-century skills, including coding, STEM education and climate-resilience strategies.
- **Programmes:** initiatives such as Girls Code provide coding and STEM training for girls across Mongolia, helping reduce gender inequality in the IT sector.
- **Community engagement:** activities such as the Dornod Youth Climate Innovation Challenge encourage climate-smart solutions and local innovation.
- **Scalable model:** a template for integrating youth into climate action, potentially replicable in similar North Asia contexts.
- **Level of participation:** level 6 – adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth (youth actively participate in design and implementation with supporting organisations).

## South-East Asia

- **Philippines.** Youth operate at Level 7 (youth-initiated and directed) through platforms such as *Youth for Just Transition*, co-designing coal phase-out strategies and piloting community solar in affected provinces. Energy policy engagement is consultative (Level 5), with limited participation in transitional-fuel planning (for example, natural gas) despite its role in short-term grid stability.
- **Malaysia.** Multi-tier engagement combines innovation (young engineers in biogas and solar operations) with consumer advocacy. Priorities include digitalisation and bioenergy, aligned with national goals for 70 per cent renewable energy by 2050. However, rural–urban divides persist in access to skills and finance.
- **Singapore.** Youth-led innovation reaches Level 7 through academia–industry partnerships (for example, AI-enabled grid management, solar efficiency). Energy policy engagement is consultative (Level 5), with strong links to international platforms (for example, IRENA), though grassroots scalability remains a challenge.
- **Indonesia.** Dialogues enable shared decision-making (Level 6) on renewable targets. Execution roles remain consultative (Level 5), with limited youth participation in fossil-fuel abatement planning in coal-dependent regions. Training programmes (for example, solar) support rural women technicians, though Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) processes lack formal youth voting rights.
- **Viet Nam.** Policy co-creation (Level 6) is facilitated through ministerial youth networks. Grassroots innovators face bureaucratic funding hurdles. Priorities include solar expansion and digitalisation, with connectivity gaps affecting smart-grid participation.
- **Thailand.** Policy consultation (Level 5) accompanies youth leadership in community energy projects. Focus areas include renewable development and funding access; skills gaps in offshore wind and storage constrain high-tech contributions.
- **Myanmar.** Youth engage through inclusive community forums and research initiatives amid conflict, acting as community implementers for rural electrification. Centralised governance limits participation in strategic decisions.
- **Cambodia.** Assigned but informed (Level 4) roles via NGOs (for example, solar deployment) target coal reduction and rural access. Barriers include limited seed funding and exclusion from gas-sector planning.
- **Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).** Level 4 participation in off-grid electrification and sustainability advocacy, supported by UNDP. Youth are seldom included in national energy security discussions and landlocked geography heightens funding and technology access constraints.
- **Timor-Leste.** Level 4 UNDP-supported microgrid projects engage youth primarily as volunteer implementers. Diversification strategies funded by petroleum revenues have limited youth consultation and external dependency constrains scale-up.

## KLASTER

(South-East Asia - National Stage Model)

**Summary:** A student-driven movement addressing just transition and social inclusion, demonstrating how academic–grassroots collaboration can build youth awareness of complex energy issues.

### Practical illustration:

- Peer-led engagement: offline discussions and meetups create space for youth discourse on national energy policies.
- Challenge: currently at level 3 – tokenism, with largely informative engagement and limited decision-making power.
- Scalable potential: with capacity-building (training, mentorship, seed funding), KLASTER could evolve into a formal advocacy platform influencing national policies.
- Example use: ASEAN governments or universities partner with KLASTER-type groups to co-develop student policy dialogues or youth energy hackathons.

## South Asia

- **Sri Lanka.** Policy consultation (Level 5) coexists with Level 4 technical assignments (for example, solar installations). Skills programmes under international financing give limited attention to high-tech renewables and transitional-fuel debates, despite the relevance of natural gas.
- **Brunei Darussalam.** Youth engagement is at Levels 3–4, with state-led training in solar technologies and limited agency in hydrocarbon transition. Structural factors constrain grassroots ventures, and funding tends to favour traditional energy sectors over clean start-ups.
- **Afghanistan.** Youth operate at Level 3 (tokenism) in policy and Level 4 in technical roles, advancing decentralised solar and rural electrification critical for socio-economic stability. Women’s representation remains limited.
- **Bangladesh.** Engagement is fragmented, with youth participation at Level 3 in national policymaking and Level 4 in technical deployment (solar and community microgrids). Natural gas dominates the energy mix. Youth face funding gaps and limited roles in strategic planning, despite potential in waste-to-energy.
- **India.** Youth engagement is Level 5 nationally and Level 4 in energy-sector roles, with growing entrepreneurship and advocacy in solar, wind and green hydrogen. Skills and decision-making access gaps persist.
- **Islamic Republic of Iran.** Participation in state-led initiatives is typically Level 3. Youth are active in environmental advocacy and awareness of renewable energy.
- **Maldives.** Shared decision-making (Level 6) in climate policy (for example, NDC drafting) contrasts with Level 4 implementation roles focused on solar and resilience. Gaps remain in fossil-fuel abatement and offshore-wind skills.
- **Nepal.** Level 5 participation at national policy and Level 3 in energy roles. NGOs and youth advocate for community-based renewables, but access to formal decision-making is limited.
- **Pakistan.** Level 4 engagement in project implementation is constrained by education gaps and uneven policy execution. Strong interest exists in renewables and climate action, requiring more comprehensive frameworks.

### Light of Hope

(South Asia - Adoptable Model)

Light of Hope demonstrates a highly practical, youth-initiated model that addresses energy access challenges in rural communities. While based in the Philippines, the model aligns perfectly with rural South Asia’s needs where off-grid communities face similar barriers to clean energy access.

Practical Illustration:

- **Youth-Led Innovation:** The project is conceived, managed, and expanded by youth, showing strong leadership in solving real-world energy problems.
- **Impact-Oriented:** More than 5,000 people and 1,005 households gained renewable energy access—a measurable, scalable outcome.
- **Transferable Model:** Deploying renewable energy kits and building community skills directly aligns with energy poverty challenges in rural Bangladesh, India, or Nepal.
- **Example Use:** South Asian countries could replicate this by training local youth to run energy social enterprises that deploy solar kits in remote areas.
- **Level of Participation:** Level 8 - Youth-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Adults – maximum youth empowerment.

## Central Asia

- **Armenia.** Youth contribute to renewables and efficiency through vocational training and awareness programmes, building market-aligned skills. Priorities include improving energy literacy and stakeholder coordination.
- **Azerbaijan.** Government-enabled participation blends youth envoy schemes and innovation support. Agency in core energy-transition decisions remains limited.
- **Georgia.** Level 6 in climate policy via institutionalised consultation (for example, Youth Climate Forum) and Level 5 in energy-sector engagement. Roles include policy advocacy and workforce development, with gaps in community leadership and fossil-dependent regions.
- **Kazakhstan.** Level 4 in energy-sector roles focused on renewables workforce development. Some general youth mechanisms reflect Level 3. Access to finance and technology for youth-led initiatives remains constrained.
- **Kyrgyz Republic.** Emerging Level 6 in climate policy and Level 5 in energy roles (advocacy, training, entrepreneurship). Authority over budgeting and infrastructure is limited and transitional-fuel considerations are under-represented.
- **Tajikistan.** Level 4 participation centres on capacity-building and community renewables under NGO/donor programmes. Youth rarely initiate or share leadership.
- **Turkmenistan.** Level 5 participation through national youth platforms; energy-specific roles are Level 4 and focus on renewables and efficiency. Exclusion from fossil-fuel abatement and rural training gaps near extraction sites persist.
- **Uzbekistan.** Level 5 participation in national climate education reforms. Energy-specific roles remain at Level 4 (technical training, ambassador schemes). Urban–rural skills divides, limited entrepreneurship pathways and low female enrolment persist.

## Youth Climate Actions Network

(Central Asia – Regional Youth Platform Model)

**Summary:** A regional youth-led platform in Uzbekistan advocating stronger youth participation in climate and energy policymaking across Central Asia, with emphasis on collaboration, access to finance and regional leadership.

### Practical illustration:

- **Regional collaboration:** connects young leaders in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to strengthen visibility in climate and energy-transition efforts.
- **Programmes:** workshops, youth dialogues and policy briefings; advocacy for dedicated funding streams for youth-led clean-energy and sustainability initiatives.
- **Scalable model:** replicable regional coordination mechanism for youth climate advocacy, suitable for expansion into structured energy-transition programming.
- **Example use:** supported by UNDP NDC-partnership programmes or climate-finance initiatives to integrate youth-led projects into national energy strategies.
- **Level of participation:** level 6 – adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth (growing momentum towards co-leadership and regional policy engagement).

## The Pacific

- **Australia.** Level 7 in climate policy and Level 6 in energy-specific roles through structured advisory mechanisms. Further consultation is needed on biodiversity safeguards and the role of transitional fuels (for example, gas) for grid stability.
- **Fiji.** Level 6 participation in climate and energy initiatives with government and UNDP support. Youth lead solar expansion and equitable access, though maritime logistics, technology access and seed finance remain constraints.
- **New Zealand.** Level 7 participation in both climate and energy through autonomous youth-led movements. More structured pathways are needed to integrate youth innovation into national strategies centred on renewables and storage.
- **Pacific Island countries (Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu).** Levels 4–5 are common despite financing dependency and limited state capacity. Youth prioritise access, security and jobs, with progress reliant on international cooperation for technology and finance.

## Youth-Led Initiatives and Experiences

The case studies highlight how youth contribute to the JET as innovators, policy advocates, educators and community leaders. Each initiative reflects different levels of youth participation—from community action to structured programmes engaging with policy and markets—and was selected for relevance, geographic balance and demonstrated impact. Together, they present practical approaches to energy access, capacity-building, social inclusion and green jobs. Some models show strong youth leadership and decision-making power, while others reflect early-stage engagement, signaling opportunities for further capacity development and policy support. These examples inform the design of future programmes and partnerships and the proposed Youth Energy Engagement Platform, ensuring that youth play a significant role in shaping sustainable and equitable energy futures in Asia and the Pacific.

## Our Pawa Campaign

(Pacific Islands – Youth-Led Regional Model)

**Summary:** A regional youth-led campaign advocating for a just and renewable-energy transition across the Pacific Islands and Australia, empowering young Pacific Islanders to lead the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy.

### Practical illustration:

- **Energy-justice focus:** frames renewable-energy access as a justice issue for frontline, climate-vulnerable Pacific communities.
- **Programmes:** digital advocacy, community storytelling, policy-pressure campaigns and local engagement across Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa and Solomon Islands.
- **Scalable model:** youth-led advocacy grounded in Indigenous identity and climate resilience, suitable for replication in other small island developing States (SIDS).
- **Example use:** scale through partnerships with development agencies (for example, ADB, UNDP) to support community-based renewable-energy education and youth leadership training.
- **Level of participation:** level 8 – youth-initiated, shared decisions with adults (youth lead strategy, content and engagement with civil-society allies and policymakers).



# CHAPTER 2

## ENABLERS AND BARRIERS TO YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC



## CHAPTER 2: ENABLERS AND BARRIERS TO YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

This chapter presents the descriptive analytics from the project’s youth survey and interviews. It summarizes outcomes, identifies enablers that facilitate participation and analyses barriers that hinder effective engagement. It also relates findings to broader literature on youth engagement in energy and climate policy.

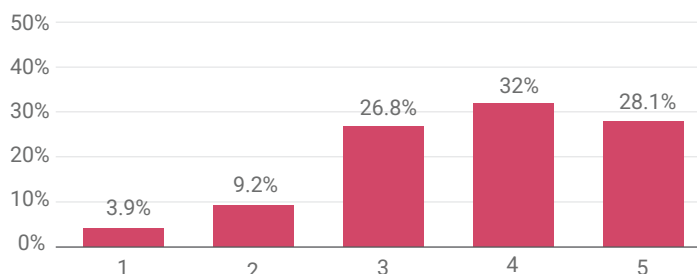
### 2.1. Descriptive Analytics of Youth Engagement Outcomes

#### Social opportunities of the energy transition

ESCAP notes that “youth bring a dynamism derived from their relative energy, passion and propensity for innovative and disruptive thinking, all of which are needed to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific” (ESCAP, 2023). Youth engagement often begins with education and awareness-raising and extends to leadership through social enterprise and project implementation that advance practical solutions (ESCAP, 2023). Youth also use digital platforms to broaden outreach, facilitate peer learning and mobilise communities and stakeholders to support climate and energy action (YECAP, n.d.).

Our survey underscores this potential. A majority reported moderate-to-high familiarity with core concepts: 60 per cent indicated strong familiarity with SDG 7 (28 per cent “very” and 32 per cent “rather” familiar) and 65 per cent reported solid understanding of the energy transition (30 per cent “very” and 35 per cent “rather” familiar). However, gaps persist: 27 per cent were only somewhat familiar with SDG 7 specifics and 24 per cent reported only moderate understanding of the energy transition, indicating a continued need for targeted outreach and capacity-building.

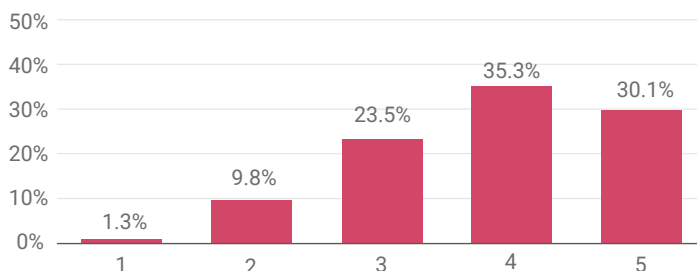
Figure 4. Youth familiarity with SDG 7



Source: ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153).

Note: 1 = not familiar; 5 = very familiar.

Figure 5. Youth familiarity with the energy transition



Source: ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153).

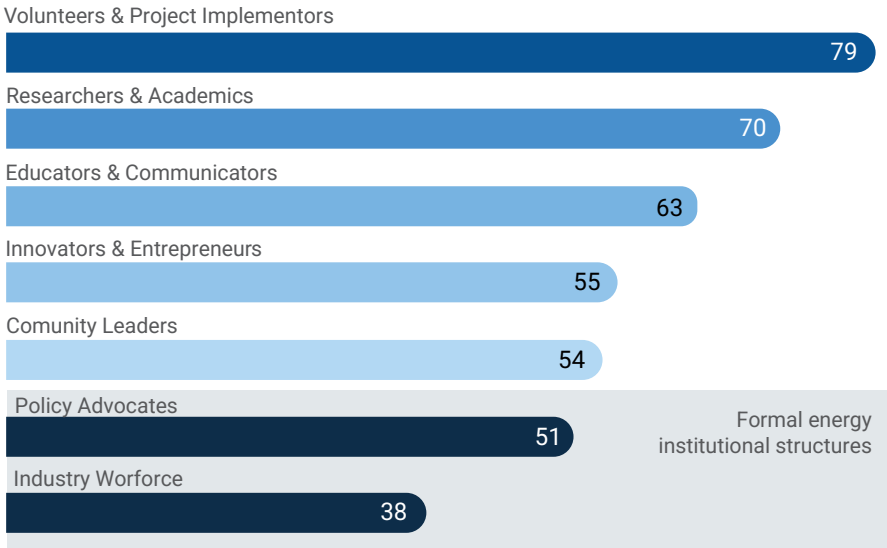
Note: 1 = not familiar; 5 = very familiar.

Respondents identified their most significant current and desired contributions as volunteering and project implementation (78.7 per cent)—supporting, organising and delivering renewable energy and energy-access initiatives—and education and communication (62.7 per cent), reflecting the role of youth as educators who raise awareness among peers and communities. Despite relatively strong familiarity with SDG 7 and energy transition concepts, respondents indicate that their engagement often occurs through community initiatives, research and advocacy rather than within formal institutional pathways. This suggests perceived barriers to entry in policy and industry roles, underscoring the need for targeted outreach and inclusive participation mechanisms.

**Figure 6. Roles respondents think youth play in advocating for SDG 7 and the energy transition**

**A majority of the surveyed youth favor roles outside formal energy institutions like industry workforce and policy advocates**

The roles respondent think youth play in advocating for SDG7 and the energy transition (% of responses)

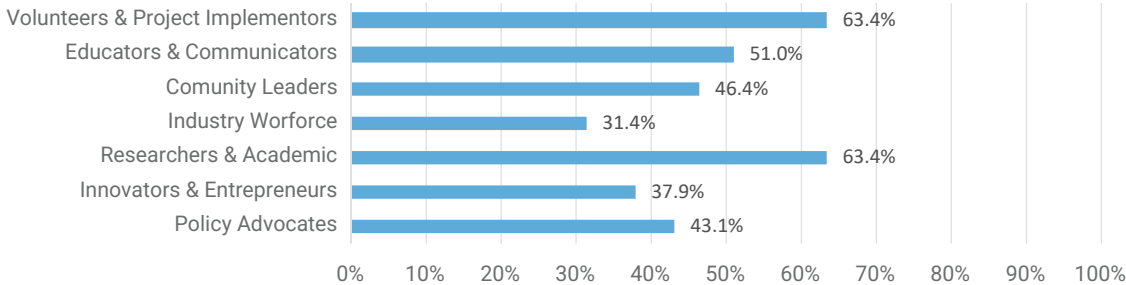


Source: ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153).

Note: Values show the number of respondents selecting each role (single response per respondent).

These perceptions align with participation patterns: 63.4 per cent indicated current or intended involvement as volunteers and project implementers. With 78 per cent of respondents aged 15–24 (United Nations youth definition), engagement is concentrated in community-based activities and capacity development.

**Figure 7. Dimension of youth engagement the respondents are involved or want to be involved with**



Source: ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153).

Note: Values show the number (and percentage) of respondents selecting each dimension.

When asked about the most popular forms of youth engagement in their countries, respondents most frequently cited volunteering and project implementation (39.3 per cent) and education and communication (20.7 per cent). Contributions include:

1. Building capacity among peers and communities to enable wider participation in the energy transition.
2. Raising awareness and public understanding to build momentum for action.
3. Implementing local solutions that deliver tangible energy-access and efficiency outcomes.

This pattern also reflects limited policy and industry avenues, consistent with broader challenges in entering formal energy labour markets.

### Employment and economic opportunities of the energy transition

Findings from the International Labour Organisation’s Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024: Asia and the Pacific indicate that youth unemployment in Asia and the Pacific was 13.9 per cent in 2023, down from its COVID-19 crisis peak of 15.7 per cent in 2020 (ILO, 2024). The youth employment-to-population ratio rose to 33.2 per cent in 2023 from 31.9 per cent in 2020, at the height of the pandemic (ILO, 2024). Notwithstanding these improvements, job-security perceptions remain weak: the share of young people concerned about job loss was 77 per cent in South-East Asia and the Pacific, 71 per cent in South Asia and 64 per cent in East Asia (ILO, 2024), suggesting that more than one third of young people across the region remain worried about the precarious nature of the labour market. Consistent with these patterns, our survey found that 40 per cent reported difficulty accessing industry experts and 22 per cent cited a perceived lack of credibility as a barrier to engagement in the energy sector.

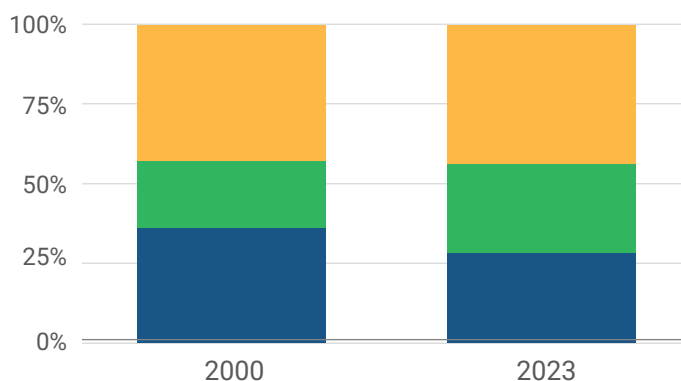
A structural driver of these concerns is the high prevalence of insecure work (including self-employment and temporary contracts lasting less than one year). Between 2000 and 2023, its share declined only marginally—from 57.4 to 56.4 per cent (ILO, 2024). In our survey, 46.2 per cent identified funding as their top support need and 32.9 per cent emphasised internships and mentorships with private-sector stakeholders. These findings suggest that a substantial share of employed youth in the region still lack pathways to stable, wage-paying employment that meets labour-protection standards, including in energy-related fields.

**Figure 8. Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024: Asia and the Pacific**

**More than half of Asia-Pacific youth are still in precarious and insecure work, despite reduction in self-employment**

% of youth employment groups\*

■ Self-employed workers ■ Temporary workers ■ Rest of employment



Data : Survey results from Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024: Asia and the Pacific

\*Self-employment and temporary contracts lasting less than a year refer to unstable, wage-paying jobs that comply with country-specific labor protection standards.

**Source:** (ILO), Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024: Asia and the Pacific (2024); adapted by ESCAP.

**Note:** Region is Asia and the Pacific as defined by ILO; years shown are 2000 and 2023. Youth are ages 15–24. “Self-employed workers” and “temporary workers” follow ILO definitions (temporary contracts lasting less than one year); “rest of employment” includes permanent employees and other statuses. Percentages refer to the share of youth employment.

In response to the questions “What support do you need to engage more deeply in energy-transition efforts?” and “What challenges have you faced in engaging with energy organisations?”, respondents most often cited limited funding and limited opportunities. This aligns with International Labour Organization analysis that structural labour-market constraints impede entry into quality jobs, particularly for young people in precarious or informal employment who struggle to move into energy-related roles, where decent opportunities are scarce and often require specialised skills and experience (Osborne and Vandenberg, 2024). Without targeted policies and investments to create accessible and sustainable career pathways in the energy sector, youth engagement in the transition will remain constrained by broader economic insecurities.

Structural shifts in regional economies further shape these outcomes. As fast-growing economies transition from agriculture towards services and manufacturing, higher-educated youth increasingly seek skilled jobs; however, growth in such jobs has not kept pace with the supply of jobseekers, resulting in educational mismatches (ILO, 2024). Tertiary-educated youth are less likely to be NEET (not in employment, education or training) than their peers, but limited creation of high-skilled posts pushes many into insecure or temporary work, including gig-based roles. This pattern is consistent with the present survey’s “lack of opportunities” theme: even well-informed and motivated youth concerned about the energy transition often face underemployment or exclusion from energy-relevant positions. As countries shift from conventional fuels to sustainable options, demand for specialised skills rises; addressing shortages in renewable energy, energy management and climate-adaptation competencies requires expanded training and job creation (BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform, 2023). Youth are central to meeting this demand through targeted education, technical training and work-based learning, enabling more effective contribution to the energy transition.

## 2.2. Enablers of Youth Engagement in the Energy Transition

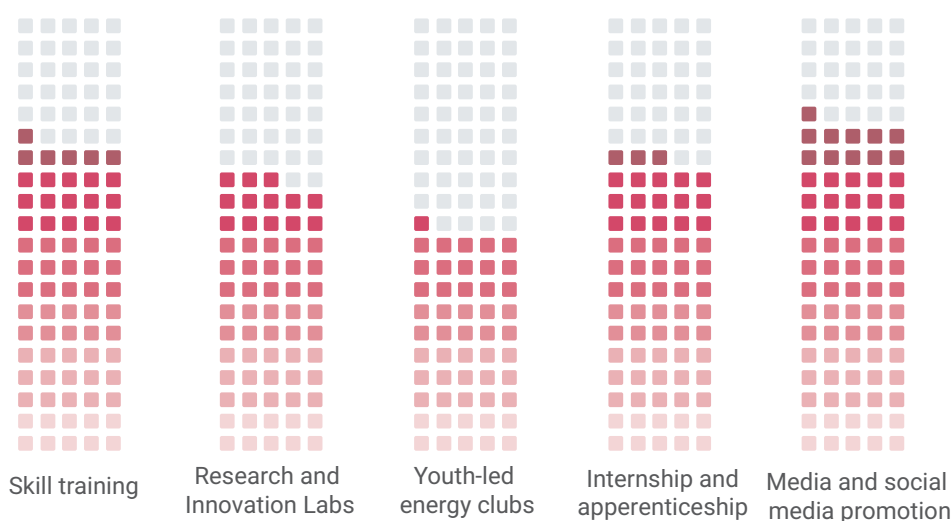
Education, capacity development, project-based involvement and participation in policymaking are important enablers of youth engagement in the energy transition, in the Asia-Pacific region and globally. This section integrates survey findings with insights from the ILO and the UNESCO, to assess the significance of these factors.

Survey responses indicate that access to relevant skills, information and resources is essential to empower youth to contribute meaningfully to clean energy initiatives. Cultivating creativity, leadership and problem-solving furthers effective participation.

**Figure 9. Enablers of youth engagement selected by number of people out of one hundred**

**Over half of the respondents view skills training, internships and apprenticeships as essential youth engagement enablers**

Enablers of youth engagement selected by number of people out of 100



**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153).

**Note:** Values show the number of respondents out of 100 (normalised for display); categories reflect enablers selected by respondents. Multiple responses were allowed, so totals need not sum to 100 per cent.

## Educational campaigns and digital engagement

Raising awareness of the energy transition is a foundational enabler of youth engagement. Digital tools and social media extend reach and help bridge gaps in traditional education systems, particularly in developing regions, by harnessing youth digital literacy to disseminate sustainable energy knowledge and build peer networks. In our survey, 68 per cent recommended using social media, digital platforms and online educational resources to broaden energy knowledge and public awareness, while 32.3 per cent advocated interactive formats (for example, short-form video, gamification). These results align with guidance to use accessible platforms to widen participation (ILO, 2019; UNESCO, 2022). Selected international initiatives

- **Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC) Youth Delegation.** With the Asian Universities Alliance, GAUC launched the Climate x Global Youth Carbon Neutrality Leadership Training Programme in 2023, recruiting nearly 1,000 students from 74 countries and close to 400 institutions, approximately 88 per cent from the global South. Participants organised 300+ in-person activities reaching over 200,000 people and engaged at COP 28 through side events and negotiation observation, supported by training in simulated negotiations, policy analysis and communication.
- **IRENA youth engagement.** Since June 2020, IRENA's Youth Talk webinars have connected young people with experts and peer networks (for example, June 2022 on "Financing Youth Actions"). In 2023, IRENA launched the NewGen Renewable Energy Accelerator, supporting 30 young innovators through webinars, workshops and mentorship and convened a Youth Forum highlighting roles in advancing renewable energy.

## Capacity building and skill development

ILO underscores the importance of green skills for employment; UNESCO advises integrating green skills into education systems and strengthening industry–education partnerships (ILO, 2019; UNESCO, 2022). Survey responses emphasised workshops, training and hands-on projects as effective approaches. 70 per cent indicated that youth organisations can enhance awareness through workshops, training and practical projects and 57 per cent identified community-based learning (for example, energy audits, renewable-energy pilots) as among the most effective approaches (Figure 9). Pairing classroom instruction with applied experience is therefore critical.

## Practical projects and hands-on engagement

Transitioning from theory to practice is essential for effective energy education. Guidance from the ILO and UNESCO underscores that classroom learning should be complemented by practical initiatives—such as internships, apprenticeships, innovation labs and project-based learning—to enable young people to apply knowledge and build "green skills" (ILO, 2019; UNESCO, 2022).

Survey findings are consistent with this emphasis:

- 42 per cent of respondents supported youth-led, small-scale renewable energy projects (for example, campus solar panel installations, community efficiency initiatives).
- 35 per cent proposed energy innovation competitions and hackathons to encourage practical engagement.

While not majority shares, these indicate clear demand for opportunities to move from theory to application—consistent with ILO/UNESCO guidance.

## Role of the private sector

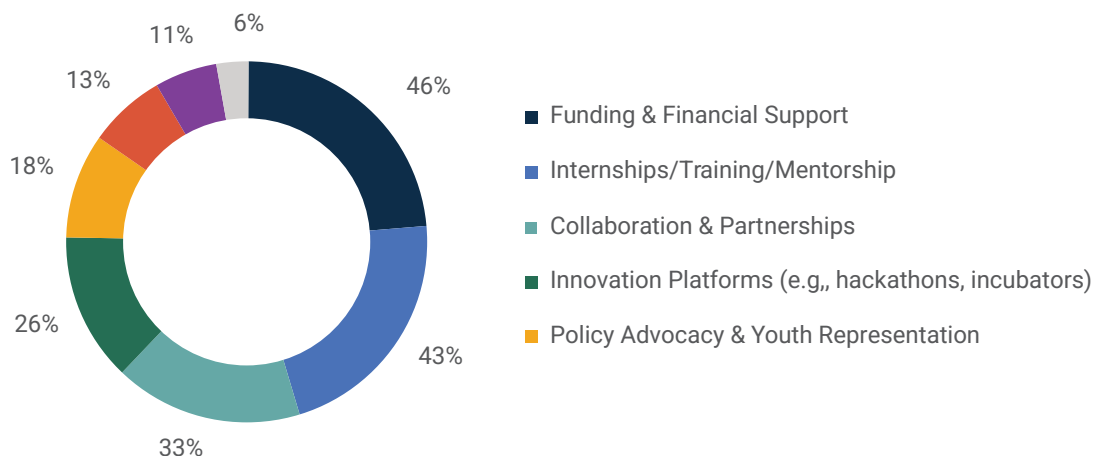
The private sector is a crucial enabler, influencing employment, supply chains and skills development (United Nations, 2011):

- **Financing** – sponsorships, grants and early-stage investment for youth-led initiatives and start-ups.
- **Mentorship and expertise** – partnerships with youth organisations for guidance, sector insights and networks.
- **Work-based learning** – internships, apprenticeships and structured training linked to energy-transition roles.
- **Employee volunteering and outreach** – staff engagement in community projects, workshops and seminars.
- **Inclusive business models** – involving under-represented youth in product design, service delivery and value chains.

Priority support needs from the private sector (survey):

- Platforms for networking with industry leaders.
- Opportunities for leadership and decision-making.
- Opportunities for employment in energy-related roles.
- Scholarships and grants.

**Figure 10. Survey responses on how the private sector can support youth engagement in energy**



**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153).

**Note:** Values show the percentage of respondents selecting each option.

Companies can facilitate networking events, workshops and specialised training that enable young people to develop and share their ideas in the energy field. Such activities build skills and create platforms for connecting with industry leaders, increasing visibility and the potential for employment. Survey responses also highlight contests and hackathons that challenge youth to devise innovative energy solutions as effective practice; these spark creativity, showcase ideas and can lead to partnerships, funding opportunities and career pathways.

There are multiple pathways for companies to support youth engagement in energy. At the core of business operations, firms can adopt inclusive business models that actively involve young people—particularly from under-represented communities - in ways that are both socially responsible and commercially viable, fostering a skilled and motivated workforce. While corporate social responsibility can sometimes be perceived as marketing, many companies implement initiatives that generate tangible social change (United Nations, 2011). As such initiatives mature, their value becomes clearer: engaging youth in the energy sector is not only a social responsibility but also a strategic investment in innovation, profitability and the broader macroeconomic stability and sustainability needed for a just energy transition.

## Technological Access & Community Leadership

The global energy transition depends on technological progress and community capacity that empower youth as active agents of change. Digital connectivity and grassroots leadership together create opportunities for young people to innovate and to be heard in local decision-making. Survey findings indicate that technology access and community mobilisation are key levers; systematic policy support is required to address bottlenecks. Evidence from international programmes shows that pairing inclusive technology strategies with community leadership can democratise access and strengthen accountability, for example through youth-led energy cooperatives.

### Community leadership: grassroots mobilisation as a catalyst

Grassroots initiatives remain critical, translating intent into action. In the survey, 38 per cent of respondents prioritised practical renewable-energy projects (for example, community solar or biogas). Such projects build local ownership and enable intergenerational knowledge exchange. Examples include youth entrepreneurs delivering decentralised solar in Bangladesh's Char Islands and the Solar Futures Community Market in the Philippines, co-designed with local stakeholders. In Fiji, SolarBuddy activities pair youth assembly of solar lights with elders' guidance on conservation, strengthening skills transfer and community trust.

Despite these successes, respondents rated the influence of grassroots stakeholders at a moderate average of 3.75 out of 5. While 30 per cent assigned the highest score, 22 per cent cited resource gaps and limited access to decision-making. The implication is clear: grassroots efforts benefit from contextual relevance but require institutional partnerships and predictable resourcing to scale.

### Technological access: enabler, barrier and pragmatic adaptation

Technology can democratise innovation but may also exacerbate inequalities where access is uneven. Only 6.5 per cent of respondents ranked "technological innovation" as the top transition priority, reflecting that policy and finance gaps are more immediate constraints. Rural youth in the Asia-Pacific reported an average accessibility score of 3.28/5 for engagement opportunities, with digital fragmentation and skills deficits excluding marginalised groups. Open-source tools for example, AI-enabled solar prediction-demonstrate potential, but high-tech dependencies can overlook grassroots realities.

Consequently, low-tech, livelihood-integrated solutions are gaining traction. In Viet Nam, solar-powered aquaculture combines income generation with sustainability. In Bhutan, blockchain applications linked to hydropower are explored alongside youth training, aligning technology with local resource strengths. These adaptations respond to preferences for tangible outcomes, particularly where digital literacy is limited.

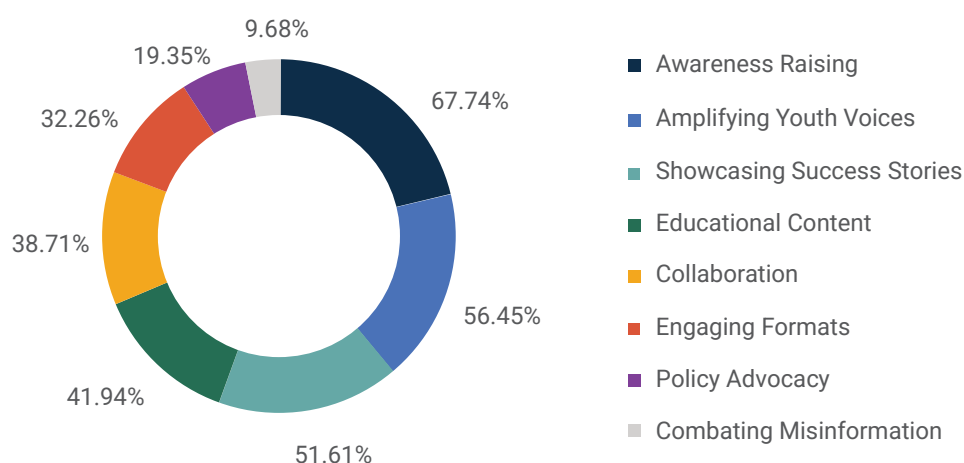
### Media's dual role: Amplification and superficiality

The media rank among the strongest stakeholders, with a mean rating of 3.5/5 on a 1–5 scale. High ratings (4–5) were assigned by 16.3 per cent of respondents, while 24.7 per cent gave low ratings (1–2). Notably, 67.7 per cent of youth prioritised awareness-raising (for example, documentaries on renewable energy technologies), yet coverage often favours fragmented narratives over action-oriented guidance.

### Successful models aligned with youth priorities:

- **Amplifying voices:** Community radio in Indonesia features youth-led solar projects (for example, Desa Mandiri Energi), providing platforms to discuss local solutions.
- **Showcasing success stories:** Coverage of rooftop-solar cooperatives in India highlights impacts on jobs and household energy costs, supporting policy attention.
- **Combating misinformation:** Youth call for fact-based tutorials (for example, microgrid maintenance in Viet Nam) to counter sensational content on media.

**Figure 11. Survey responses on how the media can enhance/support youth engagement in energy**



**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153).

**Note:** Values show the percentage of respondents selecting each option.

#### Untapped opportunities include:

- **Policy advocacy:** Accessible, evidence-based coverage of energy policies affecting youth (for example, national debates on nuclear power or transitional fuels).
- **Collaborative formats:** Co-creation with youth networks (for example, Youth for Just Transition in the Philippines) to strengthen continuity of engagement identified in the survey.
- **Participatory media models:** Community radio and radio-literacy programmes (for example, in Cambodia) that combine educational rigour with community trust.

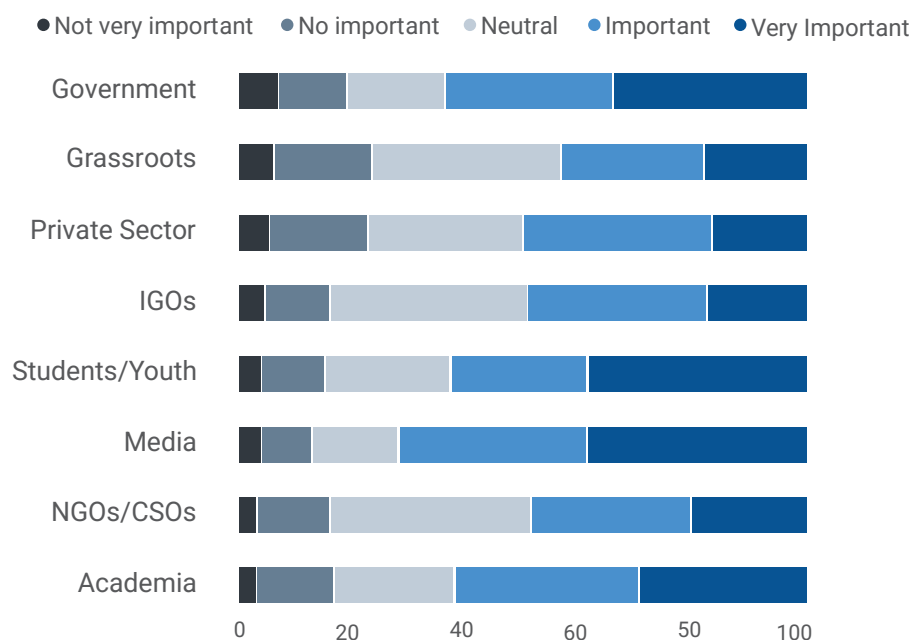
#### Active participation in policymaking

Nearly half of respondents (46 per cent) underscored the importance of youth involvement in policy advocacy. Specifically, 52 per cent emphasised petitions, lobbying and participation in international forums; 39 per cent recommended engagement in global energy summits (for example, COP, BRICS Youth Energy Summit); and 28 per cent stressed leadership-development programmes. Awareness is high: 94.8 per cent considered youth policy awareness critical, with 67.1 per cent assigning the maximum rating (5/5).

Governments play a central role in enabling participation (United Nations, 2016). Respondents recognised the leading role of government in empowering youth in energy through formal avenues such as national youth councils, technical working groups and participation in national SDG councils. A recurrent finding is the need to take youth perspectives more seriously—through representation in policy discussions, leadership opportunities and stronger collaboration between government and grassroots movements—so that young people move from being passive recipients of policy decisions to active contributors in shaping a just energy transition.

**Figure 12. Perceived influence of stakeholders on youth engagement in energy**  
**The government and media have the most important role in youth engagement for the energy transition says respondents**

Responses to the question “How you rate the impact and influence of different [stakeholder category] on youth engagement in energy issues”



Source: ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153).

Since the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth in 1995, numerous countries have developed national youth policies to foster participation in decision-making. As young people increasingly shift away from formal political structures such as parties and electoral processes towards cause-oriented activism, there is significant potential to involve them more systematically in the achievement of the SDGs, including a just energy transition. Effective engagement, however, requires strategic partnerships and comprehensive national policies that promote inclusivity in decision-making. National policy provides the foundation for youth engagement, defining the overall approach and setting clear objectives and frameworks. Survey respondents emphasised the value of government-sanctioned and financed programmes with explicit criteria for youth involvement in implementation.

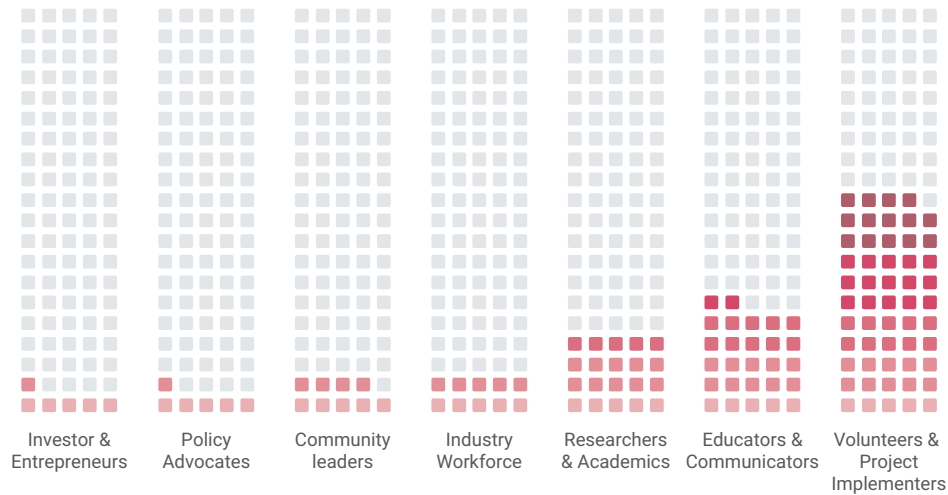
Governments can establish formal avenues for youth input, including national youth councils that provide consultative advice on policy formulation. In some countries, these councils are established by law; in others, they function as recognised non-governmental partners in consultations with national authorities.

A recurrent finding from the survey is the need to take youth perspectives more seriously at decision-maker level - through increased representation in policy discussions, opportunities for leadership and decision-making roles and stronger collaboration between government and grassroots movements - so that young people’s voices are heard, respected and integrated into the planning and execution of energy initiatives. At the same time, respondents indicated that policy advocacy and industry workforce roles are among the least common forms of youth engagement in their countries, reflecting historic barriers to entry and the continuing difficulty of translating commitments to youth participation into practice.

**Figure 13. Forms of youth engagement in respondents' countries (per cent)**

**Volunteers and project implementers are the majority of youth engagement avenues available to the youth in Asia-Pacific**

Response to the question "What are the most popular forms of youth engagement in your country?" (%)

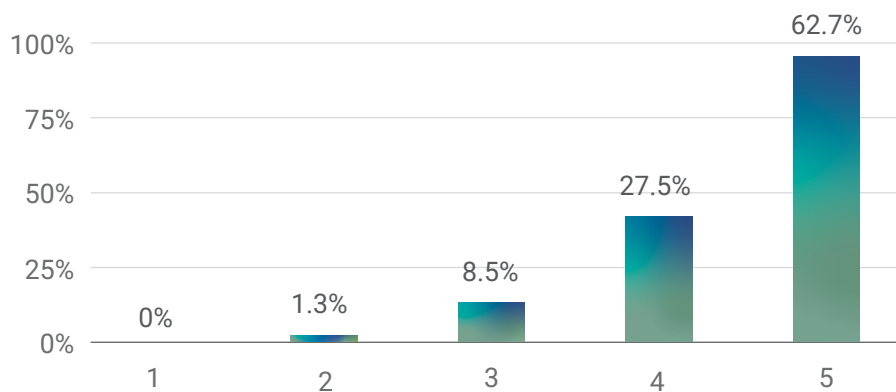


**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025.

**Note:** Values show the share of respondents selecting each form of engagement (n = 153).

During the engagement process, youth should receive timely, clear and age-appropriate information on issues under discussion and on their roles and rights. Governments can provide accessible, diversity-sensitive communication, empowering young people to participate effectively and contribute to shaping a just energy future. An overwhelming majority of respondents agree that youth should be informed about energy policies.

**Figure 14. Importance of youth being informed about energy policies (per cent)**



**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025.

A complementary strategy is to establish organisations that support young entrepreneurs in the energy sector. As youth aspirations to innovate and lead energy solutions grow, these organisations can advocate for enabling policies that expand their opportunities, while national frameworks define clear legal and administrative procedures, including standard agreements for internships in energy-related enterprises.

Evidence from national reports and voluntary national reviews indicates a gradual positive trend in governmental efforts to engage youth in energy-related policy processes in the context of a just energy transition, including through national youth councils, technical working groups and participation in national SDG councils.

Overall, youth are not just passive observers; inclusive national policies and youth-focused organisations that actively engage young people in energy-related discussions can strengthen governance and contribute to a sustainable and just energy transition.

### 2.3. Barriers of youth engagement in the energy transition

Barriers vary across contexts but cluster into seven dimensions: policy and regulation, governance and institutional, education, technology, economic and financial, market and geographical and ecological (Pereira, 2025). Capacity constraints arise from gaps in human and institutional capabilities, including insufficient technical skills, limited professional development and weak planning/regulatory capacity (BMZ, 2017; IRENA, 2019).

#### Analytical approach

Using summative content analysis of two survey questions—(i) challenges in engaging with energy organisations and (ii) support needed for deeper engagement—open-ended responses were coded into seven barrier dimensions (table 4) and visualised in figure 15.

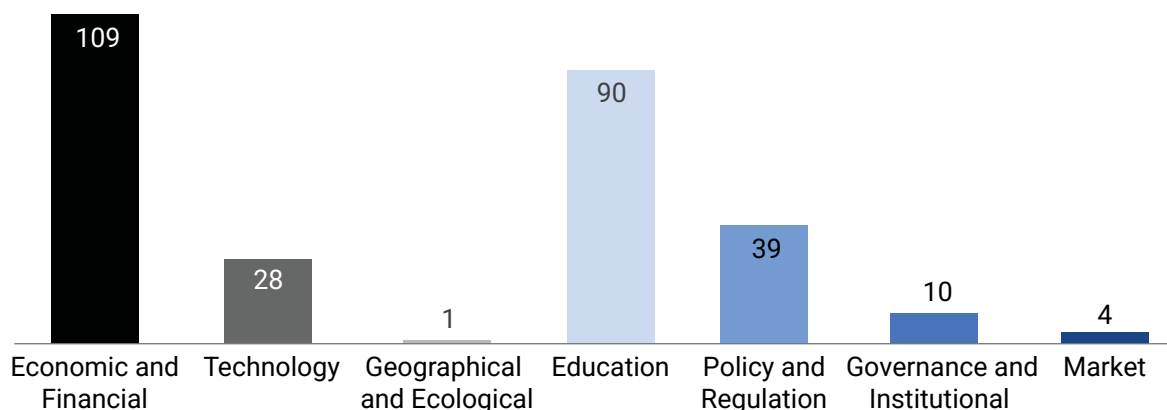
**Table 4. Keyword dictionary for coding barriers by dimension**

Dimension	Keywords
→ Policy and Regulation	policies, policy, politic, decision, legal, law, regulation
→ Governance and Institutional	corruption, nepotism, coordination, bureaucracy, govern
→ Education	awareness, knowledge, mentorship, training, skill, education, university
→ Market	market, competition, purchasing power
→ Technology	finance, incentive, economic, consumer, payback, credit, cost, funding, budget
→ Economic and Financial	infrastructure, data, technology, digital
→ Geographical and Ecological	land, ecological, weather, environment

**Note:** Keywords were used to tag open-ended responses; counts roll up to the seven dimensions shown in figure 15.

Survey findings indicate significant barriers related to access to resources—especially funding and technology—and to capacity, including training, mentorship, education, scholarships and soft skills. These constraints limit active participation in the energy transition. Barriers were most frequently coded under the Economic and financial and Education dimensions (figure 15).

**Figure 15. Frequency of coded barriers by dimension (n- n = 281)**



**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025

**Note:** Dimensions are Policy and Regulation; Governance and Institutional; Education; Technology; Economic and Financial; Market; and Geographical and Ecological. Values show counts of coded barrier mentions from two survey questions (summative content analysis).

Youth face persistent barriers to sustained engagement. Resource constraints include high upfront costs, limited access to affordable finance and inadequate grid/distribution systems. Capacity constraints arise from gaps in human and institutional capabilities, including insufficient technical skills, limited professional development and weak planning/regulatory capacity. Funding emerged as the dominant challenge, exceeding access- and bureaucracy-related barriers. Over 40 per cent reported difficulty connecting with stakeholders (industry experts, government officials, investors), contributing to a perceived credibility gap. Without access to wider networks, even well-prepared initiatives can stall.

### Identifying the youth’s journey to the energy transition (individual level)

To describe individual engagement pathways, the analysis applies the Prosci ADKAR model—Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability and Reinforcement (Hiatt, 2006)—using summative content analysis (Hsieh, 2005) with predefined keywords. Examples of ADKAR applications include organisational culture change in information security (Da Veiga, 2018), public education reform barriers (Al-Alawi, 2018) and technology roll-outs (Taufik, 2021). The table below illustrates how reported barriers map to each change phase, with representative quotes.

**Table 5. Barriers to youth engagement mapped to ADKAR change phases**

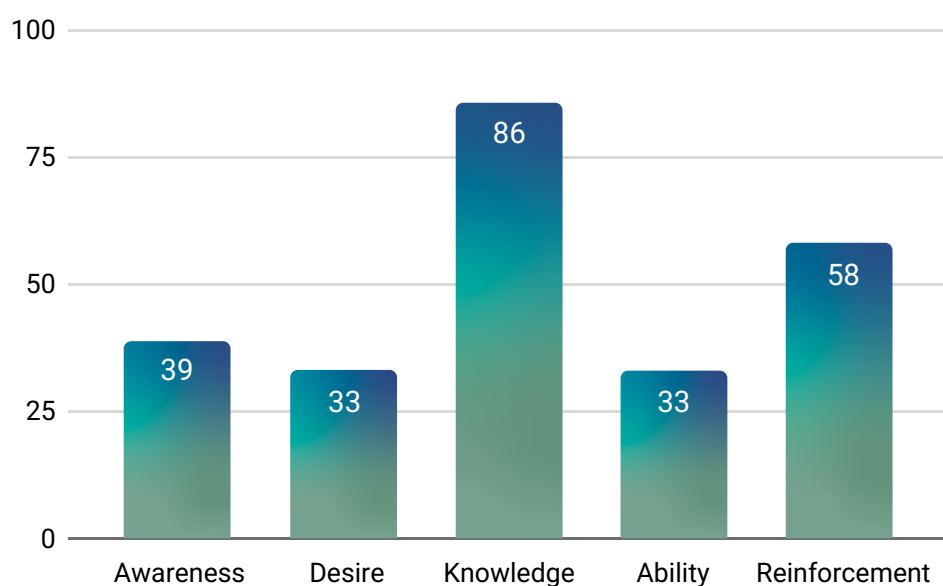
Change Phase	Keywords	Most Relevant Quotes
Awareness	Understanding, unawareness, lack of exposure, unclear purpose, no communication.	“Lack of awareness about engagement programs” “Limited awareness or understanding of energy-related issues among youth”
Desire	Motivation, interest, willingness, resistance, disengagement, lack of incentive, credibility	“Lack of desire to be a partner” “Lack of interest in partnerships”
Knowledge	Skills, training, education, expertise, lack of information, technical gap	“Limited access to industry experts” “Difficulty in accessing advanced energy technologies for learning” “Lack of technical expertise among young advocates”
Ability	Application, practice, capacity, resources, confidence, limitations, bureaucracy	“Limited funding opportunities for youth initiatives” “Difficulty in obtaining funding for research projects” “Lack of resources and connections” “Complex bureaucracy”
Reinforcement	Sustainability, recognition, feedback, follow-up, long-term engagement, support system.	“Tokenistic involvement without real influence”

**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025; coding based on the ADKAR model (Hiatt, 2006).

From this mapping, youth struggle at the Knowledge and Reinforcement stages. Skills gaps, combined with tokenistic approaches by stakeholders, limit sustained engagement. Over 40 per cent of respondents also reported difficulty connecting with key stakeholders. Respondents cited challenges in reaching industry experts, government officials and investors (for example, “key executives are hard to reach”; “difficulty in creating partnerships”). This isolation contributes to a credibility gap—youth-led organisations may face a “perceived lack of credibility or authority,” reducing willingness among companies or authorities to partner. Without access to wider networks, even well-prepared initiatives can stall.

Using the same summative content analysis, reported barriers were also mapped to the five ADKAR change phases (figure 16).

**Figure 16. Frequency of coded barriers by ADKAR stage (number of mentions)**



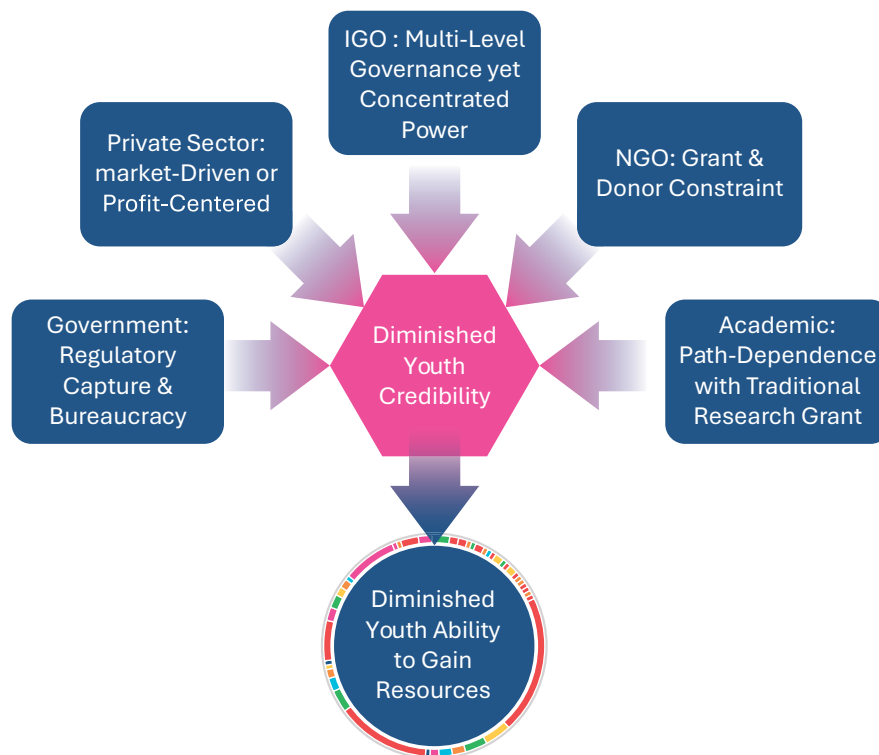
**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 249).

**Note:** ADKAR = Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability, Reinforcement. Values show counts of coded barrier mentions from two open-ended survey questions (summative content analysis).

### Perceptions and incentives across stakeholders

Perceptions of youth can influence partnership and funding decisions and contribute to what respondents described as a “lack of credibility”. Listed companies may frame youth primarily as beneficiaries of corporate social responsibility rather than as delivery partners or co-creators of value (Ruostesaari, 2016). Academic funding practices often privilege established researchers with recognised titles and track records, making it difficult for youth-led research and organisations to obtain resources in their own name and instead attaching them as junior partners to senior scholars (Kulkarni, 2015). Governance environments can be affected by short-term incentives and “revolving door” dynamics between regulators and industry, and low representation of younger generations in ministerial leadership and cabinets can further limit policy influence (Prihandono, 2023; Y4E, 2024). In international processes, youth participation can be tokenistic, offering limited decision-making power or impact on outcomes (UNICEF, 2024). Non-governmental organisations, which are often more age-inclusive, may also be constrained by donor priorities and funding conditions, with implications for how effectively they can represent youth perspectives (Tortajada, 2016).

**Figure 17. Stakeholder funding orientations and implications for perceived youth credibility**



**Source:** ESCAP/YOUTH4JET analysis, based on literature cited (e.g., Ruostesaari, 2016; Kulkarni, 2015; Prihandono, 2023; Y4E, 2024; UNICEF, 2024; Tortajada, 2016)

**Note:** Conceptual schematic illustrating hypothesised linkages between stakeholder incentives, perceived youth credibility and access to resources; not drawn to scale and not based on percentages.

### Technology access

Funding constraints also limit technology access. Respondents noted “limited exposure to renewable energy initiatives” and “difficulty in accessing advanced energy technologies” needed for hands-on learning. This gap is acute in developing contexts where basic energy access remains a challenge. As noted by the World Bank, “electricity...opens doors to education and healthcare” (Kwakwa, 2024). Modern energy and digital access underpin learning, innovation and livelihoods; bridging the technology gap—from electrification to internet connectivity and equipment—is therefore essential to enable youth participation.

### Capacity gaps and issues with technical skills

Survey responses indicate persistent gaps in education and skills for effective participation in the energy transition. Many young people report insufficient training, mentorship and formal preparation; about one in four requested additional training or mentoring, including networking opportunities with industry leaders. In the absence of mentors, youth lack technical guidance, career advice and access to professional networks, and must navigate complex energy topics largely on their own.

Formal education often does not provide the specialised knowledge required for the clean energy transition. Respondents cited low public awareness in their communities, misinformation and unreliable data on social media, and the use of technical jargon as barriers to engagement, underscoring a lack of accessible, high-quality information. Globally, many young people - particularly those who are marginalized - lack the skills needed to respond to climate change: across 94 low- and middle-income countries, only 30 per cent have begun integrating climate topics into national curricula and just 8 per cent provide comprehensive climate education (Tapia, 2024). These shortfalls limit energy literacy, understanding of career pathways and readiness for emerging roles in the transition.

Policy dialogues reflect these needs. Partners including the Asian Development Bank call for curricula that integrate green skills for a low-carbon economy, while UNICEF emphasises the importance of supporting teachers to deliver climate and sustainability content at scale (Inserra, 2024; Tapia, 2024). Consistent with these recommendations, respondents asked for specialised workshops, research opportunities and updated learning resources on transition technologies, as well as platforms beyond school—such as community forums and online courses - to sustain learning over time.

Skills needs extend beyond the technical. Youth highlighted gaps in communication, policy engagement, leadership and project management, which constrain effective advocacy and participation in decision-making. Addressing both technical and soft-skill gaps—through targeted training, mentoring and work-based learning—will enable young people to contribute to green jobs and to shape the energy transition through innovation and informed advocacy.

### **Addressing the barriers**

The interplay of resource scarcity and skills gaps creates a vicious cycle that reinforces exclusion. Without finance or technology, motivated youth cannot implement projects or gain experience; without training or mentors, they may lack the capability and confidence to lead; without information and networks, they miss opportunities and remain isolated. Respondents also reported feeling sidelined by institutions, with youth perspectives underrepresented in decision-making forums and their creativity underutilised. Evidence-informed responses include:

- Increase funding and resources for youth projects – grant programmes, seed funds and challenge competitions; improved access to microfinance, scholarships and start-up capital for youth-led clean energy initiatives.
- Expand training, education and mentorship – integrate energy-transition topics into curricula; provide boot camps, workshops and hackathons; establish mentorship schemes linking youth with engineers, researchers, policymakers and other industry experts.
- Improve access to technology and information – innovation labs, equipment and site visits; knowledge-sharing platforms and online hubs offering accessible tutorials, reliable data and local-language content to counter misinformation.
- Strengthen partnerships and inclusion – youth representatives in dialogues and task forces; internships and apprenticeships; partnerships between youth organisations, companies and international forums that recognise youth as delivery partners, not only volunteers.
- Policy support and recognition – youth-inclusion targets and dedicated funding in transition plans; scholarships, internships and start-up support; recognition (awards, media coverage) for youth-led initiatives to help overcome credibility barriers.
- Gender equality – targeted outreach and support for women and marginalised groups to address under-representation in STEM, leadership and energy workforces, and to ensure equal access to finance, training and networks (IRENA, 2019; UNESCO, 2017; UN Women, 2020).

In sum, barriers related to finance, technology, skills, networks and inclusion are significant but surmountable. Targeted investment in funding, education, mentorship and partnership can help shift youth from peripheral roles to meaningful participation in the energy transition, accelerating progress towards SDG 7 while also making the transition more inclusive and equitable.

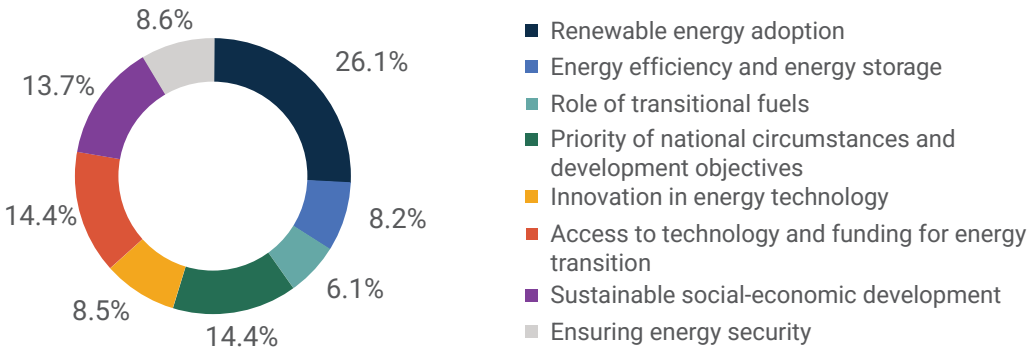
## 2.4. Conclusion: Youth Perspective on a Just Energy Transition

Findings from Chapter 2 indicate that youth across Asia and the Pacific are not only participants but essential partners in a just energy transition. Their perspectives emphasise a balanced approach that links environmental ambition with social equity, economic realism and energy security, informed by digital fluency and lived experience of energy inequality. Youth consistently frame a just transition as:

- Nationally contextualized: aligned with countries’ resource endowments, development levels and infrastructure, rejecting one-size-fits-all pathways.
- Technologically inclusive: deploying all viable options—renewables, energy efficiency, hybrid systems and, where appropriate, CCUS and transitional low-carbon fuels—within a clear decarbonization pathway, rather than through ideological exclusion of particular energy sources.
- Socially anchored: safeguarding affordable, reliable energy access for all, protecting workers and communities in traditional sectors and creating quality green and transformed jobs.
- Financially and technologically equitable: expanding access to finance, technology and knowledge for developing countries and marginalised groups.
- Grounded in international cooperation: advancing partnerships that respect national circumstances and are based on equality and mutual benefit.

Pragmatism and priorities. While 78.7 per cent of respondents report contributing to SDG 7 through volunteering and project implementation, youth priorities centre on renewable energy adoption (26.1 per cent), national circumstances and development objectives (14.4 per cent) and access to technology and funding (14.4 per cent); energy security (8.6 per cent) is also highlighted. Youth do not call for an immediate, wholesale phase-out of fossil fuels where energy poverty persists. Instead, they favour feasible, near-term emissions reductions—renewables expansion, efficiency measures, hybrid systems, transitional low-carbon options and technologies that avoid, abate and remove emissions—while maintaining a credible trajectory to net-zero. For many Asia-Pacific countries, this includes managing a declining role for fossil fuels, in some cases coupled with mitigation technologies such as CCUS, as transitional bridges to more sustainable systems.

Figure 18. Survey responses to the question “What aspects of energy transition do you find most critical?”



Source: ESCAP/YOUTH4JET survey, 2025 (n = 153)

**Systemic barriers.** Youth identify systemic constraints that risk rendering the transition inequitable if unaddressed: limited access to funding and modern technologies; gaps in practical, policy and leadership skills; restricted participation in decision-making and experiences of tokenistic engagement; labour-market mismatches and prevalence of insecure work; and gender imbalances in technical, decision-making and leadership roles. These barriers contribute to underutilisation of youth perspectives and capacities at a time when their engagement is critical.

**Solution pathways.** Youth proposals are concrete and aligned with principles of a just transition:

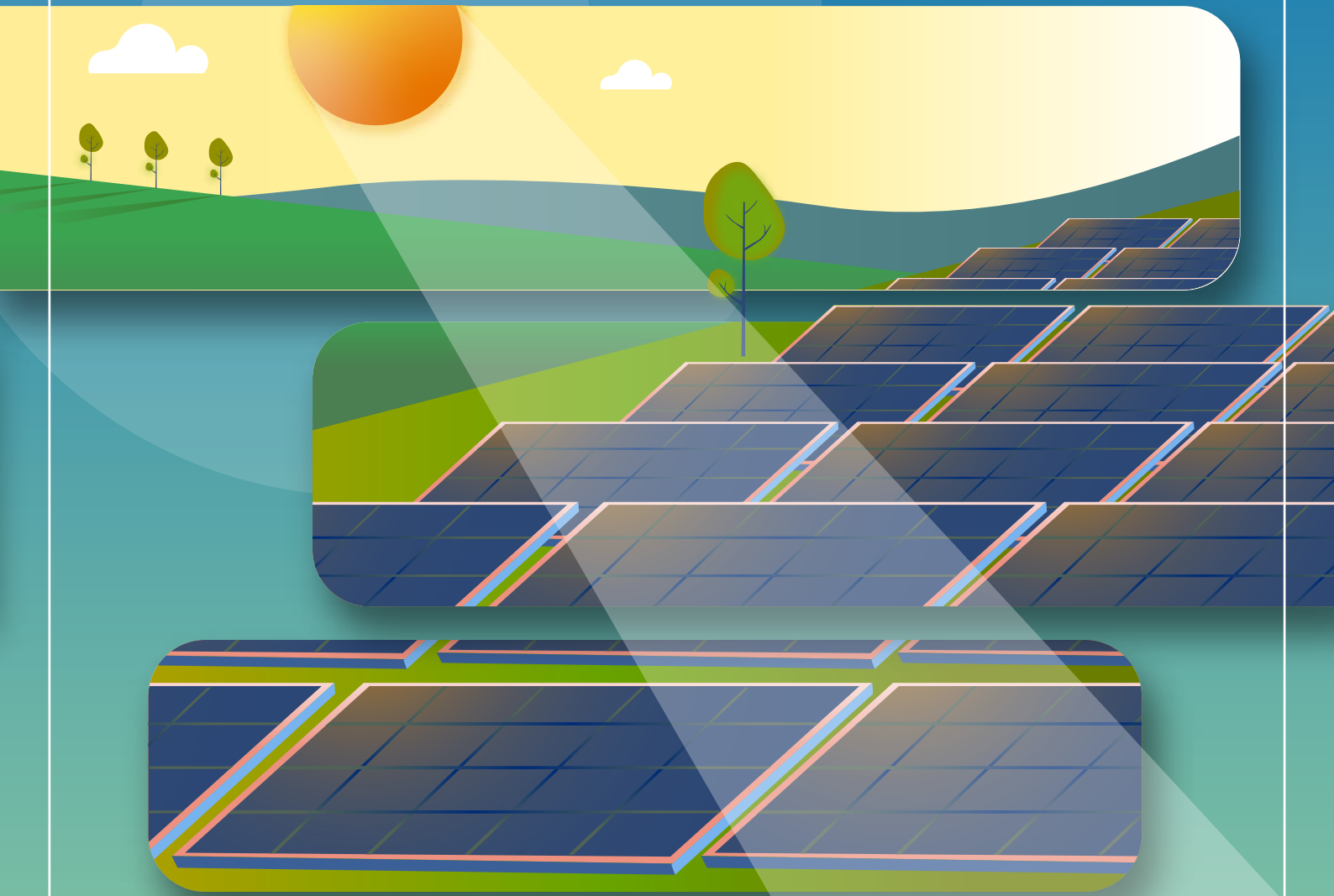
- **Digitalization and awareness:** leveraging social media, digital platforms and online resources to widen access to reliable, locally relevant information across the full spectrum of transition options.
- **Localization and practice:** low-tech, livelihood-integrated and community-led solutions (for example, decentralised systems) that deliver energy access, jobs and contextual relevance.
- **Community leadership and intergenerational dialogue:** co-design models that pair youth implementation with local knowledge and experience.
- **Work-based learning and mentorship:** workshops, internships, hackathons and project-based learning spanning renewables, efficiency, system integration and emerging technologies, including where relevant CCUS and management of legacy assets.
- **Equal partnership:** structured roles for youth in policy design and implementation, participation in SDG 7 and energy working groups, access to predictable finance (grants, microfinance, seed funding) and enabling technology (innovation labs and hubs).

Recognising youth as partners—rather than solely beneficiaries—can strengthen policy coherence, accelerate uptake of practical solutions and support a just, orderly and inclusive transition in the Asia–Pacific. Integrating youth voices in decision-making, expanding work-based learning and entrepreneurship pathways and ensuring predictable resourcing will help translate commitments into measurable outcomes for SDG 7 and climate objectives. The evidence suggests that youth in the region are already acting as present-day agents of the transition: ignoring their perspectives or confining them to symbolic roles would not only be inequitable, but would also forgo a critical source of innovation, legitimacy and momentum for a just energy transition.



# CHAPTER 3

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD



## CHAPTER 3: RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

This chapter presents actionable, stakeholder-specific measures to strengthen meaningful youth engagement in the energy transition in Asia and the Pacific. Recommendations are designed to be adaptable to national circumstances and to support a just, inclusive and orderly transition.

### 3.1. United Nations ESCAP

**Policy integration and regional frameworks.** ESCAP can embed youth perspectives across regional energy transition frameworks and agreements by setting phased, context-sensitive commitments and encouraging Member States to adopt youth-inclusive energy policies with clear targets for youth participation in decision-making bodies. Using its convening and normative role, ESCAP can help articulate regionally agreed principles and guidance on youth engagement in energy, thereby incentivizing national implementation. Coordination with other United Nations entities working on energy and youth should be strengthened to reduce fragmentation of initiatives and improve overall policy coherence.

**Capacity development.** Regional programmes should build skills in emerging technologies (for example, CCUS, hydrogen and digital systems integration) as well as in policy engagement and advocacy, partnering with academia and industry for mentorship and professional guidance. Feedback-enabled digital learning platforms with localized content on energy transition can expand access for youth in remote or underserved areas, helping to address the digital divide. Regular regional forums and boot camps focused on energy innovation and policy development can provide spaces for skills enhancement, networking and collaborative problem-solving among diverse youth stakeholders. ESCAP can also offer technical assistance programmes to help Member States design and operationalize national youth-engagement mechanisms for energy transitions.

**Partnerships and knowledge exchange.** A regional database of youth-led energy initiatives and organisations would facilitate connection, resource-sharing and collaboration across countries and sectors. South–South exchanges should be promoted to scale effective models—such as community microgrids, livelihood-linked decentralised systems and digital advocacy—while ensuring that under-represented groups, including young women and rural youth, have access to training, funding and participation opportunities.

### 3.2. Recommended Actions for Member States

**Inclusive governance.** Provide for youth representation in national energy task forces and SDG 7 monitoring bodies, with defined roles in co-designing transition pathways that reflect local needs. Simplify regulatory processes for youth-led start-ups, particularly those deploying context-appropriate hybrid and decentralized solutions in underserved communities.

**Financial and technical support.** Create dedicated funding windows for youth entrepreneurship—grants for pilots and concessional finance for scale-up—aligned with just transition priorities such as worker reskilling and energy-efficient housing. Integrate energy-transition literacy into curricula, covering balanced technology portfolios (renewables, energy efficiency, systems integration and, where appropriate, nuclear and cleaner fossil technologies). Invest in training programmes, research grants and scholarships focused on transition technologies and policy engagement.

**Digital and community platforms.** Establish transparent portals through which youth can submit policy ideas, receive feedback and access data and funding guidance; complement digital measures with offline outreach where connectivity is limited.

### 3.3. Recommended Actions for Energy Companies

**Inclusive innovation and workforce pathways.** Co-create research and development initiatives with youth organisations on emission-reduction technologies (for example, CCUS, efficiency retrofits) and on transitional-fuel applications appropriate to local systems. Establish structured entry pathways—apprenticeships, internships and green fellowships—covering technical, operational and policy-interface skills for diversified energy systems.

**Investment in youth leadership.** Allocate corporate social responsibility (CSR) resources to youth-led community energy projects that enhance access through affordable hybrid or decentralized solutions. Sponsor industry–academia platforms to mentor youth innovators and scale viable solutions, strengthening talent pipelines.

**Youth-centred engagement.** Host youth leadership dialogues or CSR ideation sessions to surface community-driven solutions and demonstrate commitment to meaningful participation.

### 3.4. Recommended Actions for NGOs and Civil Society

**Awareness and capacity.** Deliver culturally resonant information—such as local-language digital content and community radio—to demystify technologies and policies. Build mentorship networks linking youth with practitioners for skills exchange and project co-development. Provide capacity-building through webinars, public dialogues and challenges to bridge knowledge gaps. Offer structured shadowing opportunities so youth can observe decision-making in energy governance.

**Resources and advocacy.** Maintain open-access repositories of tools, funding opportunities and practical templates (proposal writing, budgeting, project planning) tailored to youth-led initiatives. Advocate for reforms that address youth-identified gaps, including equitable technology transfer and social protection for workers in transition-affected sectors.

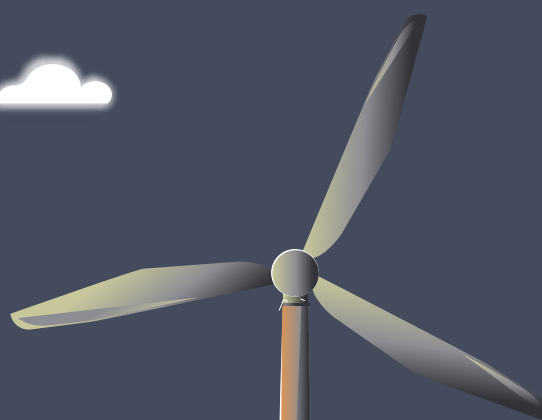
### 3.5. Recommended Actions for Educational Institutions

**Mainstreaming education and training.** Embed energy-transition principles across curricula, covering viable technologies and socio-economic impacts. Expand hands-on learning—such as campus microgrids, laboratories and industry placements—to build technical, policy and project-management competencies.

**Community engagement and research.** Lead university–community partnerships for youth-driven pilots that emphasize local relevance, job creation and knowledge sharing. Support interdisciplinary research on region-specific transition challenges, engaging youth as co-investigators.

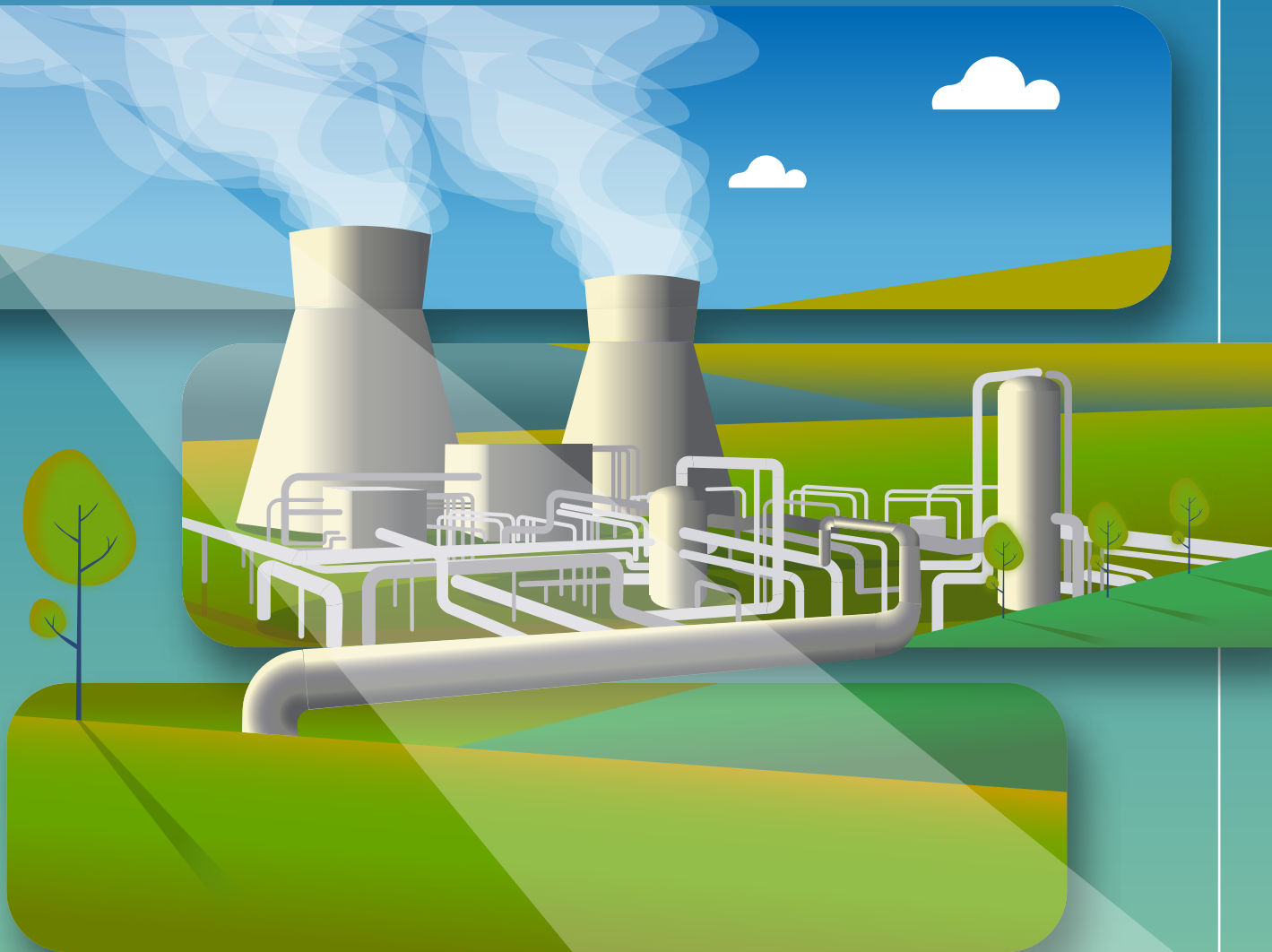
## Way forward

A just and inclusive energy transition in Asia and the Pacific is a prerequisite for its success and requires institutionalized, decision-relevant youth participation. The measures set out above provide practical pathways for elevating youth from peripheral stakeholders to empowered partners, helping to balance environmental imperatives with socio-economic stability. ESCAP, governments, the private sector, civil society and educational institutions should collaborate to establish an Asia-Pacific Youth Energy Engagement Platform to build capacities, develop relevant skills and facilitate knowledge exchange at regional and national levels. Embedding meaningful, well-resourced youth participation and ensuring sustained, coordinated investment across governance, finance, skills and access to technology will strengthen progress towards SDG 7 and climate objectives while safeguarding socio-economic stability and social cohesion.



# ANNEX I

## Comprehensive National-Level Assessment of Youth Engagement in Energy



# ANNEX I. Comprehensive National-Level Assessment of Youth Engagement in Energy

Categorized Analysis of Policy Frameworks, Initiatives, and Challenges in Asia and the Pacific

## North-East Asia

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
China	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Governments, Academia/Think Tank, Students, Media, NGOs	Renewable Energy Development, Digitalization & Smart Energy, Innovation in Energy Technology	Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Researchers & Academics, Volunteers & Project Implementers, Policy Advocates
	<p>Youth participation in the energy transition in China is growing and multifaceted. Structured youth organisations operate under government oversight and contribute to national initiatives.</p> <p><b>Academic and R&amp;D contributions.</b> Young researchers are advancing new energy technologies and sustainable models, strengthening the technical and theoretical base. Young professionals lead research and development of new-energy equipment (for example, hydrogen-related devices) and support project implementation, including systems such as the Guangshui 100 per cent new-energy power system.</p> <p><b>Student and volunteer initiatives.</b> Through organisations such as the CYCAN, university students receive training in energy management and promote public awareness on energy conservation.</p> <p><b>Institutional support and policy engagement.</b> Public policies and platforms enable youth participation, ranging from informed consultation to initiative-driven action. Overall, youth play a substantive role in advancing the energy transition through research, practical deployment and awareness-raising.</p>				
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Level 2: Decoration	Level 2: Decoration	Governments, Academia/Think Tank	Priority of National Circumstances, Ensuring Energy Security, Energy Access & Rural Electrification	Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Information on youth engagement in the energy transition of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is limited. Youth participation is tightly controlled by the state, leaving little room for independent involvement. Most youth are mobilised through the Workers' Party of Korea and the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, with no substantive role for the private sector due to centralized economic control.</p> <p><b>Academic and technical contributions.</b> Institutions such as Kim Il Sung University provide technical support in areas aligned with state priorities, particularly hydropower and solar energy. Research is confined to official agendas, with no space for independent think tanks or NGOs.</p> <p><b>International engagement.</b> International and United Nations programmes that typically foster youth participation are absent. Newly graduated students are often deployed as "shock troopers" for labour-intensive tasks rather than as stakeholders in decision-making.</p> <p><b>Mass mobilisation programmes.</b> Youth are primarily engaged in hydropower development and rural electrification through state-led mobilisation initiatives, including the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigades, which involve an estimated 300,000 members. Activities focus on infrastructure construction and repair, with limited technical training or capacity-building.</p> <p>Overall, youth participation in the DPRK's energy sector is largely symbolic. Roles are restricted to manual labour on state-defined projects, serving political and ideological objectives rather than fostering innovation, skills development or meaningful influence in the energy transition</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Republic of Korea	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Governments, Students, Academia/Think Tank, NGOs	Digitalization & Smart Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Storage, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Policy Advocates, Researchers & Academics, Community Leaders, Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Youth engagement in the energy transition of the Republic of Korea is among the most open and influential in the Asia-Pacific region. Youth movements actively advocate for ambitious climate action, including the promotion of sustainable energy consumption and the phase-out of coal use. Their activism extends beyond national boundaries, building strong regional and global networks.</p> <p><b>Institutional and policy engagement.</b> The Framework Act on Youth demonstrates the government's commitment to empowering young people. Mechanisms include participation in consultations and deliberations on youth-related policies, the establishment of a national youth council and certified leadership training programmes.</p> <p><b>Access to decision-making.</b> Young people have direct legal and institutional channels to influence environmental and energy policy. A notable example is the constitutional petition initiated by youth between 2020 and 2024, which contributed to strengthening the Carbon Neutrality Basic Act.</p>				
Japan	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Governments, NGOs, Grassroots Communities, Students	Renewable Energy Development, Role of Transitional Fuels, Innovation in Energy Technology	Researchers & Academics, Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers, Community Leaders
	<p>Youth in Japan are active participants in the energy transition, engaging through both formal institutions and grassroots initiatives. While survey data are limited, they show strong interest in climate, energy and sustainability among young people. Challenges remain regarding access to funding, media visibility and broader recognition of youth-led contributions.</p> <p><b>Grassroots and NGO participation.</b> Many young people contribute as educators, communicators and volunteers, often working with organisations such as the Japan Climate Initiative, which brings together companies, local governments and NGOs to support climate action. Climate Youth Japan fosters youth leadership through workshops and participation in the UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties.</p> <p><b>National-level engagement.</b> The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry leads the AZEC, a key regional forum on clean energy. However, youth involvement is limited to participation in government-funded youth conferences, with no evidence of inclusion in formal consultations. This level of engagement can be characterized as "assigned but informed" (Level 4).</p> <p><b>Youth-initiated leadership.</b> More assertive forms of youth leadership are emerging, including legal action. In 2024, 16 young people filed a lawsuit against major utilities JERA and J-POWER over their role in climate change. This reflects growing frustration with continued fossil fuel investments, including coal-fired projects in South-East Asia. Overall, while youth voices are increasingly present, engagement remains primarily consultative rather than collaborative.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Russian Federation	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Governments, International Organisations, Academia/Think Tank, Students, NGOs	Role of Transitional Fuels, Priority of National Circumstances, Ensuring Energy Security, Innovation in Energy Technology	Policy Advocates, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Youth engagement in the Russian Federation is multifaceted. Participation in formal politics remains limited, while involvement in volunteering and informal civic initiatives is significant. Regional differences persist, with rural youth more focused on community issues and collective action.</p> <p><b>Institutional platforms.</b> Two youth councils affiliated with the Ministry of Energy representing 34 companies, 15 universities and government bodies; co-design of initiatives such as the Energy League talent pipeline integrating STEM learning with industry placements and supporting just transition workforce objectives.</p> <p><b>Policy and research roles.</b> Contributions as policy advocates and researchers through the Youth Global Energy Forecast and BRICS Youth Energy Agency summits; innovation channels such as the CASE-IN competition, with limited uptake in state-owned enterprise investment decisions.</p> <p><b>International visibility and constraints.</b> Participation in forums including the World Petroleum Council Youth Forum, alongside external limitations linked to sanctions; engagement concentrated in major urban centres such as Moscow and St. Petersburg; absence of formal decision-making power in regulatory bodies.</p> <p>Overall, youth participation in the energy sector is structured and visible but remains primarily consultative, with limited authority over regulatory or investment decisions.</p>				
Mongolia	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, NGOs, International Organisations, Students	Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Sustainable Social-Economic Development, Renewable Energy Development	Community Leaders, Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>The role of youth in national decision-making and climate resilience governance in Mongolia remains undefined, yet engagement is gaining momentum through NGO and IGO support, particularly United Nations bodies such as UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government of Mongolia.</p> <p><b>Institutional and partnership landscape.</b> Growing collaboration between United Nations agencies (including UNICEF), NGOs and government counterparts supports youth participation and capacity development in climate and energy-related activities.</p> <p><b>Advocacy and community-based action.</b> Youth demonstrate leadership through voluntary community service, public awareness campaigns, social events and capacity-building trainings focused on energy transition themes.</p> <p><b>Practical, locally driven solutions.</b> Building on close ties to the natural environment, youth-led initiatives promote alternative sustainable heating methods, integrate solar energy technologies and support the sustainability of local infrastructure, contributing to environmental sustainability and community resilience.</p> <p>Overall, youth engagement in Mongolia's energy transition is expanding and increasingly organized, though formal roles in national decision-making remain to be defined.</p>				

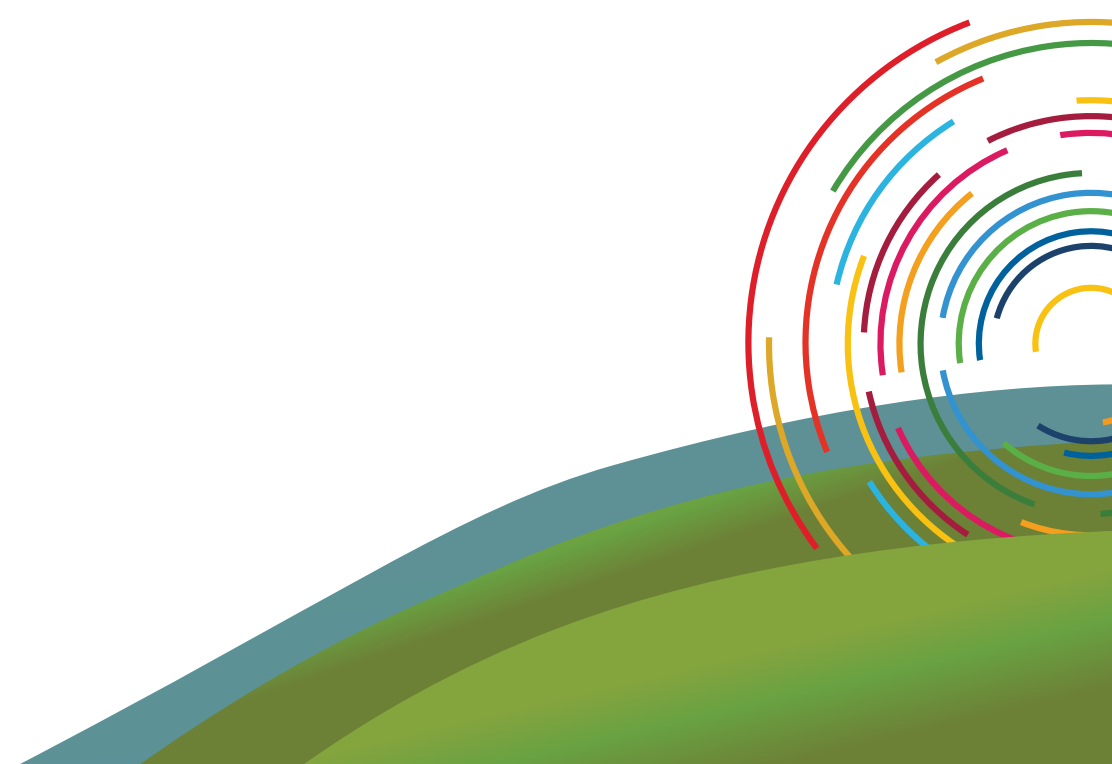
## South Asia

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Afghanistan	Level 3: Tokenism	Level 3: Tokenism	Governments, Academia/Think Tank, International Organisations	Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Volunteers & Project Implementers, Industry Workforce
	<p>Afghanistan is prioritizing the expansion of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, small hydropower, biomass and geothermal. This strategy aligns with national targets to increase clean energy capacity, reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels and strengthen energy security. Significant efforts are directed towards expanding access in rural and remote areas through mini-grids, off-grid solar systems and decentralized renewable solutions, which are essential for socio-economic development and improving quality of life.</p> <p><b>Innovation and entrepreneurship.</b> Youth are engaged in creating innovative energy solutions and startups, introducing new business models that support renewable energy adoption.</p> <p><b>Knowledge and technical expertise.</b> Young people contribute to knowledge generation and technical research, helping to inform policy processes and improve energy technologies.</p> <p><b>Skilled workforce roles.</b> Youth form an essential part of the energy-sector labour force, working as technicians, project managers and in other technical capacities.</p> <p><b>Barriers to inclusivity.</b> Limited representation of women remains a significant barrier to broadening youth engagement and ensuring equity in the energy transition.</p> <p>Overall, Afghanistan's energy transition focuses on renewable energy expansion, rural electrification and energy efficiency. Youth are pivotal as innovators, workers, community mobilisers and educators. Strengthening education, training and inclusive participation can accelerate the transition, provide employment opportunities and foster social stability within the emerging green economy.</p>				
Bangladesh	Level 3: Tokenism	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, NGOs, Private Sector, International Organisations	Renewable Energy Development, Access to Technology and Funding for Energy Transition, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Community Leaders, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Youth engagement in the JET in Bangladesh is fragmented and constrained by systemic barriers. At the national level, participation is largely tokenistic (Level 3), with platforms such as the National Youth Parliament and COP delegations providing visibility but limited influence on policy processes. In the energy sector, youth are assigned technical roles (Level 4), such as maintaining solar home systems under SREDA programmes, but are excluded from strategic planning.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and areas of participation.</b> Key drivers of engagement include the Government of Bangladesh, NGOs and the private sector. Youth contribute as community leaders promoting decentralized solar solutions in energy-poor regions, such as the Char Islands and as entrepreneurs innovating in waste-to-energy and solar irrigation ventures.</p> <p><b>Alignment with national priorities.</b> Youth-led initiatives support renewable energy adoption (solar remains dominant, with 6.2 GW installed), energy access (47 per cent of off-grid households use solar systems) and socio-economic development through microgrids that power rural enterprises.</p> <p><b>Barriers to transformative engagement.</b> Challenges include limited funding access for youth energy startups, the absence of youth quotas in energy governance bodies and skills gaps in advanced technologies such as CCUS and grid modernization. While transitional fuels such as natural gas remain central to the national energy mix, youth involvement in emission-reduction initiatives, including methane capture, is minimal.</p> <p>Overall, Bangladeshi youth demonstrate strong potential as energy innovators and community facilitators, but require structured support through financing, skills development and formal inclusion in governance mechanisms to become transformative actors in the energy transition.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
India	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, Academia/ Think Tank, International Organisations	Renewable Energy Development, Energy Efficiency and Energy Storage, Digitalization & Smart Energy	Volunteers & Project Implementers, Industry Workforce, Community Leaders
	<p>India has one of the world's largest youth populations, with more than 50 per cent under age 25 and 65 per cent under 35, representing a significant force for the energy transition.</p> <p><b>Domains of engagement.</b> Participation spans renewable energy sectors such as solar, wind, green hydrogen and biofuels, as well as climate action, clean transportation and energy access initiatives.</p> <p><b>Modalities and motivations.</b> Youth engage through formal employment, volunteering, entrepreneurship, policy advocacy and education and awareness campaigns, motivated by opportunities for skills development, employment, leadership and contributions to national development and climate goals.</p> <p><b>Barriers to meaningful participation.</b> Constraints include gaps in energy literacy, limited access to decision-making, socio-economic disparities and the absence of sustained platforms for engagement.</p> <p>Overall, youth engagement is expanding, with most participation still adult-initiated and consultative or supporting in nature. A clear trend toward deeper involvement and youth-led initiatives is emerging; addressing barriers and expanding opportunities will be key to realizing the full potential of young people in India's energy future.</p>				
Islamic Republic of Iran	Level 3: Tokenism	Level 3: Tokenism	Governments, International Organisations, NGOs	Role of Transitional Fuels, Energy Efficiency and Energy Storage, Digitalization & Smart Energy	Industry Workforce, Researchers & Academics, Volunteers & Project Implementers, Educators & Communicators
	<p>Most youth engagement in the Islamic Republic of Iran's energy sector occurs through government or institution-led initiatives. Youth may be present in discussions, events or campaigns, but their influence on decision-making is limited. Participation is often symbolic (tokenism) or involves assigned roles with limited power.</p> <p><b>International and national engagement.</b> Young people participate in international summits and forums, where they are consulted and informed, though decision-making remains largely shaped by adults and officials. Nationally, youth-led or youth-initiated activities are emerging, particularly in environmental advocacy and renewable energy awareness, but these are not yet mainstream and face regulatory or political constraints.</p> <p><b>Social activism and community initiatives.</b> Youth are engaged in social activism, environmental campaigns and community service, supported by NGOs and organisations such as the Iranian Youth Organisation. Their initiatives also extend to issues such as water scarcity and broader environmental challenges.</p> <p><b>Digital and global networks.</b> International connections via digital platforms and global youth networks expose Iranian youth to democratic values and social justice concepts, providing inspiration for envisioning and advocating for more open and equitable futures.</p> <p>Overall, Iranian youth remain a dynamic social force, with a legacy of activism and growing engagement in environmental and community initiatives. However, their influence in the energy sector is constrained by institutional and political limitations.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
<b>Nepal</b>	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 3: Tokenism	Students, NGOs, Governments	Renewable Energy Development, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Nepalese youth demonstrate strong awareness of climate change, yet their understanding of government strategies and policies to address the issue remains limited. While the Government of Nepal has recently engaged young people in the drafting of the NDC 3.0, significant barriers persist in accessing formal decision-making processes and influencing policy outcomes.</p> <p><b>Policy consultation and barriers.</b> Youth participation in formal policy processes remains limited, with engagement largely restricted to consultation exercises rather than decision-making authority.</p> <p><b>Education and NGO collaboration.</b> Youth with higher educational attainment, often working in partnership with local NGOs, play a prominent role in advocating for a JET and clean energy adoption</p> <p><b>Community-based initiatives.</b> Youth-led efforts increasingly emphasize integration of local culture and the use of community-based social campaigns to build awareness and support for the energy transition</p> <p>Overall, Nepalese youth are active in advocacy and awareness-raising, but their influence on national energy policy remains constrained by limited access to formal decision-making platforms.</p>				
<b>Maldives</b>	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, International Organisations, Private Sector, NGOs	Renewable Energy Development, Priority of National Circumstances, Sustainable Social-Economic Development, Access to Technology and Funding for Energy Transition	Policy Advocates, Educators & Communicators, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Volunteers & Project Implementers, Community Leaders
	<p>The Maldives demonstrates moderate youth empowerment in the JET, with inclusivity in policy design but operational constraints in energy implementation. At the national level, youth engagement reaches Level 6 through co-creation of climate policies such as the NDCs, where “Climate Guardians” advised on renewable energy targets and disaster resilience. In the energy sector, however, involvement remains at Level 4, with youth trained for technical solar roles but excluded from high-level planning on transitional fuels and grid modernization.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and enabling platforms.</b> The Government of Maldives institutionalized youth voices in NDC development; UNICEF provides support through initiatives such as Climate Guardians and environmental clubs; and private investors fund solar projects that employ young workers.</p> <p><b>Areas of youth impact.</b> Youth contributions focus on renewable energy adoption, with solar dominant due to island geography. Engagement also supports socio-economic development, including employment opportunities and addresses local challenges such as water scarcity through projects like solar-powered desalination.</p> <p><b>Constraints and gaps.</b> Barriers include lack of youth participation in fossil fuel abatement, reliance on diesel backup systems, limited financing opportunities for youth-led energy startups beyond solar and skills shortages in advanced technologies such as offshore wind and battery storage.</p> <p>Overall, the Maldives pioneers youth-inclusive climate governance, but bridging the gap between policy and implementation is necessary to strengthen meaningful youth participation in the energy transition.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
<b>Pakistan</b>	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, International Organisations, NGOs	Access to Technology and Funding for Energy Transition, Sustainable Social-Economic Development, Renewable Energy Development	Volunteers & Project Implementers, Policy Advocates, Industry Workforce
<p>Pakistan has one of the world’s largest youth populations, with more than 60 per cent under the age of 30. This demographic represents a significant opportunity for national development, particularly as the country advances its energy transition. However, youth engagement in the energy sector remains underdeveloped, shaped by structural barriers and emerging opportunities.</p> <p><b>Participation levels.</b> Despite their numbers and enthusiasm, youth involvement in structured energy engagement is low relative to their demographic weight. Existing programmes are often limited in scope, quality and reach, constraining the ability to harness youth potential.</p> <p><b>Barriers to meaningful engagement.</b> Constraints include insufficient educational resources on renewable energy and climate change, negative perceptions of NGOs and civil society organisations and weak implementation of policies that could expand youth participation.</p> <p><b>Knowledge and awareness gaps.</b> A generational gap persists in climate and energy awareness, with many young people lacking in-depth knowledge of the linkages between climate change and the energy transition.</p> <p><b>Opportunities and youth perspectives.</b> Surveys show that most young people are willing to act on climate and energy issues if provided with adequate support and opportunities. There is broad consensus among youth that government should lead on climate and energy action, alongside recognition of their own role as agents of change.</p> <p>Overall, Pakistani youth are motivated and willing to contribute to the energy transition, but their engagement remains limited by systemic barriers. Expanding educational access, improving policy implementation and strengthening institutional support will be critical to mobilising this demographic force.</p>					



## South-East Asia

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Sri Lanka	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, Private Sector, Academia/ Think Tank, International Organizations	Renewable Energy Development, Sustainable Social-Economic Development, Energy Access & Rural Electrification	Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Educators & Communicators, Community Leaders
	<p>Youth engagement in the JET in Sri Lanka is emerging but remains uneven. Nationally, youth participation reaches Level 5, with structured consultations such as YAP4C influencing climate mobility policies. In the energy sector, however, participation is at Level 4, with young people assigned technical roles, such as solar installations, but excluded from strategic decision-making on transitional fuels such as natural gas.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and enabling programmes.</b> The World Bank supports private solar investment, while United Nations agencies including ILO and FAO build green skills through entrepreneurship programmes. GIZ has trained more than 7,000 students in renewable energy education.</p> <p><b>Areas of youth impact.</b> Contributions are most visible in renewable adoption, particularly solar and wind expansion and in socio-economic development aligned with national goals to reduce fossil fuel dependence below 50 per cent by 2030. Youth also excel as innovators, through initiatives such as the SPARK Award and as educators, advancing awareness of sustainable energy.</p> <p><b>Persistent gaps.</b> Barriers include lack of youth participation in fossil fuel abatement, despite the importance of natural gas and CCUS in national energy security. Skills shortages limit youth readiness for high-technology renewables such as offshore wind and grid storage, while restricted access to capital constrains youth-led startups beyond small-scale solar projects.</p> <p>Overall, Sri Lankan youth are making important contributions to renewable energy and skills development, but broader and deeper engagement in high-technology and fossil fuel transition areas is needed to achieve a more inclusive energy transition.</p>				
Brunei Darussalam	Level 3: Tokenism	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, Academia/Think Tank, International Organizations, Private Sector	Role of Transitional Fuels, Priority of National Circumstances, Renewable Energy Development	Researchers & Academics, Industry Workforce, Educators & Communicators
	<p>Youth engagement in Brunei Darussalam reflects rentier-state dynamics, with hydrocarbon dependence shaping limited but structured roles. General participation aligns with Level 3 (tokenism), evident in state-coordinated forums where youth voices are visible but rarely influence policy. Energy-specific engagement rises to Level 4 (assigned but informed), with youth contributing to solar research and industry training in support of national goals such as Vision 2035 on economic diversification.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and institutional roles.</b> The Government of Brunei Darussalam dominates youth engagement, with institutions such as the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) preparing young people for technical roles. International bodies, including ASEAN's SIPET, provide regional data tools but offer limited localized youth empowerment.</p> <p><b>Areas of engagement.</b> Youth act primarily as researchers and members of the industry workforce, supporting renewable energy adoption and gas innovation. Their roles centre on solar expansion and transitional fuels such as natural gas with CCUS, consistent with national energy security and just transition objectives.</p> <p><b>Barriers and structural constraints.</b> Opportunities for policy advocacy or entrepreneurship are limited due to institutional "lock-in" favouring hydrocarbons and centralized decision-making. Grassroots energy ventures remain underdeveloped, with SIPET noting minimal youth-led projects in its regional database. Additional barriers include inadequate funding access for clean-energy startups and training programmes skewed towards traditional energy sectors.</p> <p>Overall, Brunei Darussalam demonstrates structured but constrained youth participation in the energy transition, with international cooperation and localized empowerment needed to expand opportunities beyond technical roles.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
<b>Cambodia</b>	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, Academia/Think Tank, Media, Students	Renewable Energy Development, Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Youth engagement in Cambodia operates at Level 4 (assigned but informed) in both climate and energy-specific contexts. Government initiatives, such as the 2023 NDC, formally recognize youth as stakeholders. NGOs, including EnergyLab and UNDP, involve young people in solar training and awareness campaigns. Youth understand the relevance of their contributions to national priorities—reducing coal reliance and expanding renewables—but lack direct input in policy design.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and enabling initiatives.</b> The Government of Cambodia recognizes youth in national climate commitments, while NGOs such as EnergyLab and UNDP engage young people in training and public awareness. International organisations including Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and UNDP support entrepreneurship and education, with GGGI training 120 youth in green entrepreneurship in 2023.</p> <p><b>Areas of engagement.</b> Youth act as community leaders and members of the industry workforce, installing solar systems in rural villages through EnergyLab programmes. Universities provide platforms for young educators promoting behavioural change.</p> <p><b>Gaps and structural barriers.</b> Opportunities in policy advocacy and innovation remain limited. Structural challenges include insufficient funding for youth-led startups, minimal involvement in transitional fuels such as natural gas and centralized decision-making that excludes grassroots perspectives.</p> <p>Overall, Cambodian youth contribute meaningfully to renewable adoption and socio-economic development, particularly in rural energy access, but their participation remains constrained by institutional and structural barriers.</p>				
<b>Indonesia</b>	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Governments, International Organizations, Private Sector, Academia/Think Tank, NGOs	Renewable Energy Development, Innovation in Energy Technology, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Educators & Communicators, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Policy Advocates, Community Leaders
	<p>Youth engagement in Indonesia’s JET is dynamic, with strong grassroots initiative and growing avenues for consultation, but empowerment remains constrained by limited decision-making authority.</p> <p><b>Policy platforms and consultation.</b> Youth delegates have contributed to revised NDC targets and advocated for equitable technology access; Space for Youth enables direct dialogue with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the JETP Secretariat, amplifying youth input but without voting power.</p> <p><b>Project roles and capacity development.</b> Young people are delegated technical roles in renewable projects yet remain excluded from strategic planning and fossil fuel abatement strategies; UNDP’s ACCESS project trains youth as solar PV operators, with participation comprising 50 per cent under 25 and 50 per cent women.</p> <p><b>Decentralized and off-grid initiatives.</b> Youth drive community-based solar deployment in off-grid areas, including Central Java’s Desa Mandiri Energi (Energy Independent Villages), supporting national objectives to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</p> <p><b>Leadership, entrepreneurship and outreach.</b> Engagement includes innovators and entrepreneurs developing solar technology startups and waste-to-energy solutions, as well as educators and communicators through platforms such as the National Renewable Energy Summit (NRES) and ECDP, Indonesia’s largest student-led energy conference.</p> <p>Overall, Indonesian youth contribute substantively to consultation, skills development and decentralized implementation, but greater inclusion in strategic planning and fossil fuel transition decisions is needed to strengthen meaningful participation.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	International Organizations, Students	Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Renewable Energy Development, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Volunteers & Project Implementers, Community Leaders
	<p>Youth engagement in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is emerging as a component of national strategies for economic development and the energy transition. Young people participate at various levels, from skills development and entrepreneurship to policy dialogue and environmental innovation.</p> <p><b>Institutional and international support.</b> Engagement is supported by foreign aid and United Nations agency initiatives, reflecting the country's status as a developing, landlocked State.</p> <p><b>Roles and recognition.</b> Youth are increasingly viewed not only as beneficiaries but as active contributors to national progress.</p> <p>Overall, youth engagement is growing but remains dependent on external support, underscoring the need for sustained national mechanisms.</p>				
Malaysia	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Private Sector, NGOs, Students, Governments, Academia/Think Tank	Renewable Energy Development Digitalization & Smart Energy, Role of Transitional Fuels	Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers, Community Leaders, Industry Workforce, Researchers & Academics, Policy Advocates
	<p>Combined findings from recent studies indicate a multi-tiered youth engagement landscape in Malaysia's energy transition. The EY Energy Consumer Confidence Index reports that 81 per cent of Malaysian youth are driving demand for sustainable energy options despite affordability constraints, while a UEM Group–Cenergi case study highlights young engineers aged 30–36 taking on critical operational and strategic roles in renewable energy infrastructure</p> <p><b>Consumer-side engagement.</b> Gen Z consumers leverage digital tools to monitor energy use and advocate for provider accountability, signalling strong demand for sustainable options despite cost pressures. Professional and industry leadership. Young engineers directly manage biogas and solar assets and contribute to sector governance through associations such as the Malaysian Photovoltaic Industry Association and the Malaysian Association of Energy Service Companies (MAESCO).</p> <p><b>Organisational enablers.</b> Empowering workplace structures—flat reporting, horizontal communication and autonomous decision-making—enable young professionals to lead revenue-generating operations and participate in policy dialogues.</p> <p><b>Alignment with national targets.</b> Youth-driven consumer behaviour and professional leadership support Malaysia's objective of achieving 70 per cent renewable energy by 2050.</p> <p>Overall, evidence points to a dual-track model in which grassroots consumer advocacy and institutional leadership development together strengthen meaningful youth participation and sector performance.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Myanmar	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Private Sector, Academia/Think Tank, International Organizations, Students, NGOs	Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Priority of National Circumstances	Volunteers & Project Implementers, Researchers & Academics, Policy Advocates, Educators & Communicators
	<p>Myanmar's youth demonstrate autonomous leadership through self-created platforms, including the biannual Myanmar Youth Forum (MYF) and the National Youth Congress (NYC). Young people from 26 ethnic groups formed the National Ethnic Youth Alliance and advanced recommendations to national peace processes, contributing to the adoption of the National Youth Policy in 2017.</p> <p><b>Youth-initiated platforms and policy influence.</b> MYF and NYC enable independent dialogue on human rights, democracy, environment and peace; the National Ethnic Youth Alliance channels multi-ethnic youth positions into national policymaking, culminating in the 2017 National Youth Policy.</p> <p><b>Energy-specific engagement levels.</b> Youth operate at Levels 5–6 through structured institutional programmes and cooperative learning models, combining consultation and shared decision-making in energy-related activities.</p> <p><b>University-led policy fora.</b> The Dagon University Youth Parliament brings 32 students from eight ethnic groups together to deliberate on energy sector challenges with academic and private sector support.</p> <p><b>Individual leadership and technical pathways.</b> Young professionals, exemplified by mechanical engineer Zun Moe Thiri, participate in adult-supported programmes for solar installations in underserved communities, undertake hydrogen economy research and pursue advanced degrees across regional institutions.</p> <p><b>Cooperative education and peer learning.</b> Youth develop technical skills through peer-to-peer learning, self-study and learning-by-doing, enabling independent problem-solving and integration into decision-making committees alongside adults.</p> <p><b>Context and constraints in the energy sector.</b> Despite the lowest electrification rate in ASEAN and grid connectivity of roughly 50 per cent, alongside significant hydropower potential, youth act as immediate implementers addressing energy access gaps and as future leaders in renewable technologies; systemic barriers persist, with political leaders more likely to engage youth under international pressure than through sustained, inclusive governance.</p> <p>Overall, Myanmar's youth combine autonomous advocacy with structured, energy-focused participation, but institutional resistance and limited electrification constrain the scale and influence of their contributions.</p>				
Philippines	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Governments, Private Sector, Academia/Think Tank, NGOs, International Organizations, Students, Grassroots Communities, Media	Renewable Energy Development, Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Innovation in Energy Technology	Policy Advocates, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Researchers & Academics, Industry Workforce, Community Leaders, Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>The Philippines exemplifies structured youth collaboration in the energy transition, combining Level 6 participation (shared decision-making) in climate policy with Level 5 participation (technical consultation) in energy projects. Institutionalized platforms such as the Sangguniang Kabataan councils and the Youth for Just Transition (Y4JT) Network enable young people to co-design policies addressing just transition priorities, including retraining displaced workers and expanding community-owned renewable energy.</p> <p><b>Institutionalized platforms.</b> Sangguniang Kabataan councils and the Y4JT Network allow young leaders to contribute to national energy policy processes, working in equal partnership with established organisations on issues such as just transition and energy access.</p> <p><b>Areas of youth impact.</b> Youth serve as policy advocates and community leaders, bridging national strategies and local realities. Initiatives include the development of a Youth Agenda and projects such as the Solar Futures Community Market. Young advocates collaborate with institutions including Oxfam Pilipinas, ICSC and CEED, while maintaining autonomous decision-making authority through organisations such as RebootPH.</p> <p><b>Contributions to national goals.</b> Engagement focuses on renewable adoption and socio-economic equity, aligning with national objectives to reduce coal dependence and expand electricity access to unelectrified households.</p> <p><b>Persistent barriers.</b> Despite consultation, youth lack voting power in regulatory institutions such as the Energy Regulatory Commission. Limited engagement is evident in natural gas and hydrogen strategies and rural youth face difficulties in participating in smart-grid planning due to lower internet access rates.</p> <p>Overall, youth in the Philippines are recognised as genuine partners in the renewable energy transition, with structured collaboration enabling influence in both policy and practice. However, institutional barriers continue to constrain full participation in decision-making.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Singapore	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Governments, Academia/Think Tank, Private Sector, International Organizations	Digitalization & Smart Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Storage, Renewable Energy Development	Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Policy Advocates, Industry Workforce, Educators & Communicators
	<p>Singapore's youth engagement exemplifies structured collaboration in the energy transition, combining shared decision-making in sustainability policy with Level 5 participation (consultative roles) in technical energy projects. Institutions such as the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Energy Market Authority (EMA) institutionalize youth involvement through initiatives including the YES Leaders Programme and the Singapore Energy Grand Challenge (SEGC). These platforms align with just transition principles by promoting equitable access to green skills and socio-economic resilience.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and enabling platforms.</b> NEA and EMA provide institutional mechanisms for youth participation, while academia—such as Singapore Polytechnic—incubates innovators and private partners like EDP Renewables engage youth through SEGC competitions.</p> <p><b>Areas of contribution.</b> Youth drive renewable adoption and energy efficiency through innovations suited to Singapore's land-constrained context, such as solar-enhanced MRT tracks and community waste reduction initiatives. They also participate as policy advocates (YES Leaders) and members of the industry workforce (EMA scholars).</p> <p><b>International engagement.</b> Platforms such as the IRENA amplify youth voices and support cross-border knowledge exchange, complementing national initiatives.</p> <p><b>Challenges and gaps.</b> Barriers include limited youth involvement in transitional fuels strategies, such as natural gas for energy security, nascent entrepreneurial pathways due to funding gaps and constrained scalability of grassroots leadership. Deeper engagement in energy policymaking, particularly in areas such as grid modernization, remains necessary.</p> <p>Overall, Singaporean youth are engaged in structured and innovative ways across policy, education and industry, though stronger roles in transitional fuel strategies and policymaking are needed to advance inclusive participation.</p>				
Thailand	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	International Organizations, NGOs, Media	Renewable Energy Development, Sustainable Social-Economic Development, Access to Technology and Funding for Energy Transition	Policy Advocates, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Youth in Thailand are increasingly taking active and influential roles in the country's energy transition. Moving beyond consultation, they jointly contribute to policy dialogue, advocate for climate justice and lead grassroots energy initiatives. Their engagement spans regional collaboration, global climate negotiations and community-level action with diverse stakeholders, reflecting a shift towards more empowered and co-creative participation.</p> <p><b>Policy dialogue and advocacy.</b> Youth participate in national policy discussions, emphasizing climate justice and equitable energy transition priorities.</p> <p><b>Grassroots and community initiatives.</b> Young leaders drive renewable energy awareness and implementation at the local level, often linking projects to community resilience and social inclusion.</p> <p><b>Regional and global engagement.</b> Thai youth collaborate in regional networks and represent national perspectives in international forums, strengthening cross-border knowledge exchange.</p> <p>Overall, youth in Thailand are evolving from consultees to co-creators, contributing at multiple levels of the energy transition through advocacy, innovation and collaboration.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Timor-Leste	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Grassroots Communities, International Organizations	Renewable Energy Development, Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Community Leaders, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Young people in Timor-Leste are increasingly taking active roles in shaping national development, including participation in governance and leadership in climate action. While their efforts are growing, engagement often relies on external funding and faces limitations in achieving broader impact.</p> <p><b>Areas of engagement.</b> Youth contribute to governance processes, climate action initiatives and community-based programmes that link environmental sustainability with socio-economic development.</p> <p><b>Barriers and dependencies.</b> Participation remains constrained by reliance on external funding and limited institutional support, which restricts the scale and sustainability of youth-led initiatives.</p> <p>Overall, continued support and investment in youth-focused programmes are essential to harness the potential of Timor-Leste's young population and address persistent challenges to meaningful participation in the energy transition.</p>				
Viet Nam	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Media, Governments, Students, Academia/Think Tank	Renewable Energy Development, Innovation in Energy Technology, Digitalization & Smart Energy	Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Youth in Viet Nam are playing an increasingly active role in the JET, but face persistent structural challenges that limit their effectiveness. Engagement is often shaped by constraints in finance, human resources and approval processes, despite growing institutional recognition and support.</p> <p><b>Key challenges.</b> Youth-led projects frequently lack reliable funding due to complex reimbursement procedures. Young people, often students or recent graduates, rely on personal funds to launch projects and face difficulties complying with financial regulations, including record-keeping requirements. Human resource challenges include reliance on unpaid volunteers, resulting in variable commitment and added pressure on young leaders to manage diverse teams. In addition, seeking project approval from local governments can be a barrier, particularly for informal groups without legal registration, which hinders their ability to secure protection and formal partnerships.</p> <p><b>Institutional support and partnerships.</b> The Youth Engagement for a Sustainable Future: Strengthening Climate Change Education in Viet Nam report, developed by the Youth4Climate Policy Working Group with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and UNDP, highlights opportunities to address these challenges. Recommendations include integrating green career skills into secondary education, expanding experiential learning and increasing investment in youth-led start-ups.</p> <p><b>Areas of opportunity.</b> Expanding access to knowledge platforms such as the Climate Learning Hub and building partnerships with grassroots organisations are identified as priorities. These efforts should target youth in remote and rural areas to reduce inequalities and ensure inclusive participation.</p> <p>Overall, Viet Nameese youth demonstrate strong commitment and innovation in advancing the energy transition, but overcoming structural barriers in financing, skills development and institutional approval will be critical to sustaining and scaling their impact.</p>				

## Central Asia

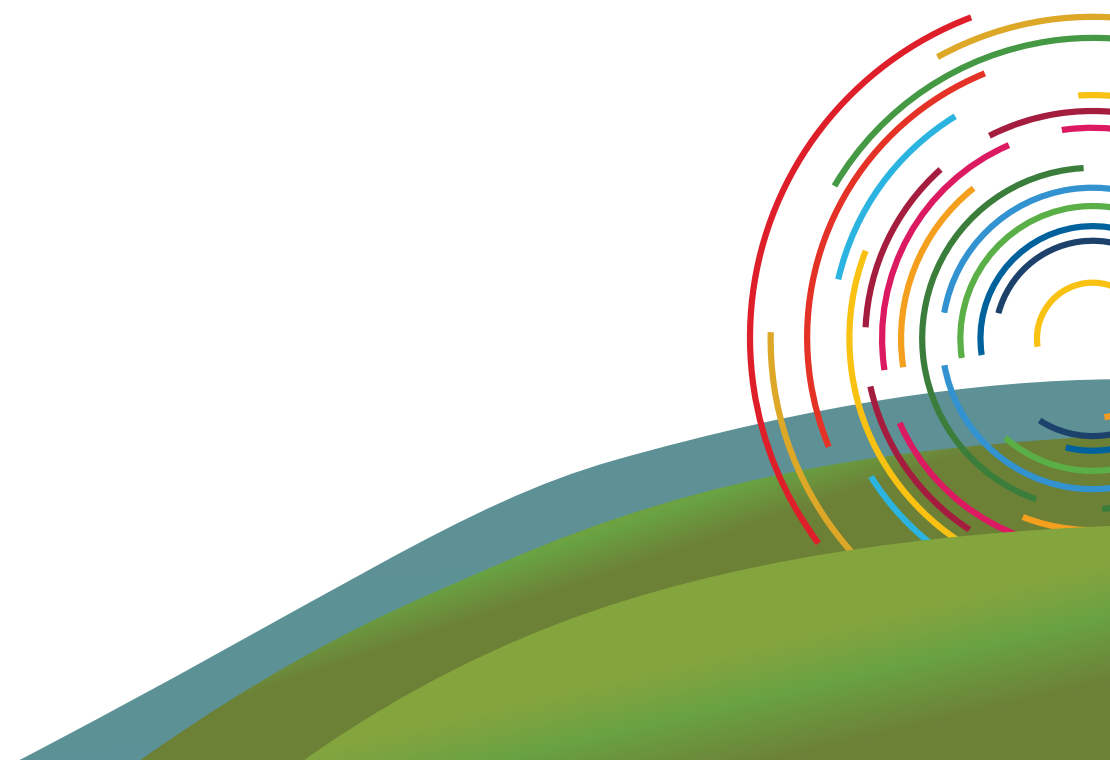
Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Armenia	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, Academia/Think Tank, NGOs, International Organizations, Grassroots Communities	Renewable Energy Development, Energy Efficiency and Energy Storage, Access to Technology and Funding for Energy Transition	Researchers & Academics, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Volunteers & Project Implementers, Educators & Communicators
	<p>Youth play a crucial role in Armenia's energy transition by contributing to innovation, education and practical engagement in renewable energy and energy efficiency. While overall energy literacy among students remains moderate, young people bring fresh perspectives and challenge traditional paradigms, with universities and educators highlighting the need for greater outreach and enhanced energy education.</p> <p><b>Skills development and vocational training.</b> UNDP projects provide vocational training in solar panel installation and maintenance, equipping young technicians and educators with market-relevant skills for Armenia's renewable energy sector.</p> <p><b>Awareness and community participation.</b> EU-backed programmes, including EU Sustainable Energy Week, engage youth through awareness campaigns, competitions and community projects, fostering enthusiasm for sustainable energy and strengthening local capacity.</p> <p><b>Professional training and inclusion.</b> The USAID-supported Young Professionals in Energy programme offers students and recent graduates hands-on experience in energy security, legal reforms, renewables and efficiency, with a focus on youth and women's inclusion in the sector.</p> <p>Overall, youth participation is increasingly important for Armenia's green transition. Strengthening energy literacy and fostering collaboration among stakeholders will be key to scaling up the impact of youth-led initiatives.</p>				
Azerbaijan	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, International Organizations, Private Sector	Role of Transitional Fuels, Priority of National Circumstances, Renewable Energy Development	Policy Advocates, Community Leaders, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Youth engagement in Azerbaijan's energy transition reflects a multi-layered participation model operating primarily at Levels 5–6 of Hart's Ladder (consulted and informed to adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth). Participation demonstrates authenticity beyond tokenism, combining structured programmes with youth-initiated innovation.</p> <p><b>Institutional support and capacity-building.</b> The Government of Azerbaijan functions as an enabler through frameworks established across ministries of education, industry and energy and youth and sports. Structured initiatives include climate envoy programmes training 19 youth leaders to conduct education sessions across districts, supported by consistent government backing from 2012 to 2024 and integration of youth initiatives into national priorities such as COP29.</p> <p><b>Investment and skills development.</b> Substantial financial commitments, including USD 2 million in funding from bp for renewable energy master's programmes, provide opportunities for youth capacity-building and advanced training aligned with the country's renewable energy ambitions.</p> <p><b>Innovation and entrepreneurship.</b> Youth-led innovations include start-ups such as Rainergy, founded by 16-year-old Reyhan Jamalova and AI-powered solar prediction systems developed by 19-year-old Gozal Humbatzada, reflecting autonomous contributions to renewable energy technologies.</p> <p><b>Hybrid participation model.</b> Government-created platforms, such as district-level youth club networks, facilitate youth research, entrepreneurship and peer education, balancing state coordination with genuine youth leadership.</p> <p>Overall, Azerbaijan demonstrates a hybrid model where state-supported structures enable meaningful youth participation, combining financial investment, innovation and autonomous initiatives. While youth play substantive roles in skills development and climate diplomacy, their influence remains short of fully youth-initiated leadership at Levels 7–8 of Hart's Ladder.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Georgia	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Governments, International Organizations, NGOs, Academia/Think Tank	Renewable Energy Development, Sustainable Social-Economic Development, Energy Efficiency and Energy Storage	Policy Advocates, Educators & Communicators, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Community Leaders
	<p>Georgia demonstrates advanced youth engagement in the energy transition, characterized by institutionalized consultation and collaborative decision-making. The 2025 Youth Climate Forum, co-organized by the Government of Georgia and UNDP, integrated youth input directly into NDC 3.0, reflecting Level 6 participation (shared decision-making) in climate policy and aligning with just transition principles on intergenerational equity and socio-economic resilience. Sector-specific energy engagement operates at Level 5 (consulted and informed), with youth contributing technical ideas, including on renewable integration at academic forums, but without authority over resource allocation.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and platforms.</b> The Government of Georgia and international partners, including the Energy Community Secretariat and UNDP, facilitate mechanisms such as the Just Transition Young Voices Award that highlight localized transition challenges.</p> <p><b>Academic and private-sector enablers.</b> Universities empower youth as innovators through research symposia and industry networking, while private initiatives foster workforce development and more equitable access to green jobs.</p> <p><b>Roles and contributions.</b> Youth act as policy advocates in NDC consultations, as educators through award-winning journalism and public awareness and as members of the industry workforce via solar training and related skills development.</p> <p><b>Focus areas and remaining gaps.</b> Priority areas include renewable energy adoption, particularly hydropower and solar and socio-economic development aligned with energy security and poverty reduction. Gaps persist in decentralized community leadership and the inclusion of fossil-dependent regions, underscoring the need for continued international cooperation, including assessments and projects that expand youth-centred financing and technology access.</p> <p>Overall, youth in Georgia are engaged through structured, multi-stakeholder processes that connect policy dialogue, skills development and implementation, while further empowering local leadership remains a key need.</p>				
Kazakhstan	Level 3: Tokenism	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, Academia/Think Tank, Private Sector, International Organizations	Renewable Energy Development, Role of Transitional Fuels, Ensuring Energy Security	Researchers & Academics, Industry Workforce, Policy Advocates, Innovators & Entrepreneurs
	<p>Kazakhstan's approach to youth engagement in the energy transition reflects its national context as a resource-rich economy pursuing carbon neutrality while ensuring energy security. Youth participation in the energy sector predominantly sits at Level 4 (assigned but informed), with structured opportunities where young people understand their role in renewable adoption, though decision-making power is limited. Broader youth participation mechanisms often remain at Level 3 (tokenism).</p> <p><b>Institutional and academic platforms.</b> The Government of Kazakhstan, supported by academia and international organisations, drives youth engagement through parliaments, forums and curriculum integration, particularly in STEM programmes at institutions such as Nazarbayev University.</p> <p><b>Private-sector contributions.</b> The private sector increasingly offers internships and innovation challenges, enabling youth exposure to renewable energy technologies and industry practices.</p> <p><b>Youth roles.</b> Young people contribute primarily as researchers and academics and as an emerging industry workforce for the renewable energy sector. Roles as policy advocates and entrepreneurs are developing but remain limited in influence.</p> <p><b>Alignment with just transition principles.</b> The strategy emphasizes developing a domestic workforce and research capacity to ensure stable employment and diversify the economy, consistent with renewable energy targets while acknowledging the role of natural gas and energy security concerns.</p> <p><b>Barriers to deeper participation.</b> Youth are not yet meaningfully involved in co-decision-making processes (Levels 6–8). Equitable access to technology and finance for youth-led initiatives across the country remains a challenge, as does bridging the gap between academic training and practical entrepreneurship opportunities. International cooperation, including with UNDP, the World Bank and GIZ, plays a key role in capacity-building.</p> <p>Overall, Kazakhstan's youth engagement is structured and supportive of national priorities, but further efforts are required to elevate participation from consultative roles to shared decision-making and community-level innovation.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Kyrgyzstan	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Governments, International Organizations, Academia/Think Tank, NGOs	Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Renewable Energy Development, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Policy Advocates, Industry Workforce, Educators & Communicators, Innovators & Entrepreneurs
	<p>Kyrgyzstan's youth engagement features structured consultation with emerging shared decision-making in climate policy at Level 6, while energy-specific involvement remains consultative at Level 5. The Government of Kyrgyzstan and international partners institutionalize youth input, with the Youth Climate Forum directly informing NDC 3.0 renewable targets.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and platforms.</b> Government, OSCE and UNDP facilitate formal channels for youth participation, including the Youth Climate Forum's contribution to NDC 3.0.</p> <p><b>Roles and capacity development.</b> Youth serve as policy advocates and members of the industry workforce focused on hydropower and solar expansion and on improving energy access in remote mountain areas.</p> <p><b>Skills, entrepreneurship and academia.</b> Technical courses at KSTU train electricians with an emphasis on rural and female participation, supporting workforce development for sustainable socio-economic growth; the AIIB–World Bank green finance facility strengthens youth entrepreneurship in renewable MSMEs; universities promote innovation through Green Digital Offices and ESG certifications.</p> <p><b>Gaps and constraints.</b> Youth lack authority over energy budgeting and infrastructure decisions, with empowerment short of Levels 7–8; transitional fuels such as natural gas are underexplored in youth dialogues despite energy security relevance; engagement remains skewed toward renewables adoption rather than holistic systems that integrate emissions reduction for existing sources; international partnerships play a significant role in financing university capacity gaps.</p> <p>Overall, youth engagement in Kyrgyzstan is structured and increasingly influential in climate policy, but deeper empowerment in energy-sector decision-making and a broader systems approach are needed to advance an inclusive, just transition.</p>				
Tajikistan	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	NGOs, Governments, International Organizations	Renewable Energy Development, Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Volunteers & Project Implementers, Policy Advocates, Researchers & Academics
	<p>Youth in Tajikistan play an emerging but limited role in the energy transition, primarily through capacity-building and participation in energy efficiency and climate awareness initiatives. Internationally supported programmes align with national strategies targeting energy efficiency, renewable energy development and social inclusion.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and programmes.</b> Projects led by organisations such as Geres and the OSCE focus on empowering young people, including unemployed youth, through training and exposure to renewable energy technologies.</p> <p><b>Skills and community initiatives.</b> Geres has trained more than 120 youth in energy-efficient construction skills, enabling employment and supporting sustainable housing improvements in rural areas; the OSCE Youth Eco-School engages youth in climate and air-pollution dialogues and introduces solar power devices, encouraging eco-friendly commitments.</p> <p><b>Policy frameworks and education pathways.</b> The Tajikistan Energy Efficiency Framework promotes youth inclusion via gender-sensitive dual learning programmes with technical schools, aiming to equip youth with market-relevant green skills for the energy sector.</p> <p><b>Gaps in empowerment.</b> Participation remains largely at the “assigned and informed” level, with adults and institutions driving agendas; youth engagement is concentrated in training and awareness rather than shared leadership, policy influence or youth-initiated projects.</p> <p>Overall, youth are becoming important actors through skills development, awareness-raising and community-level projects, but deeper opportunities for youth-initiated action and shared decision-making are needed to advance a more inclusive and sustainable energy transition.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Turkmenistan	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, International Organizations, Students, Grassroots Communities	Role of Transitional Fuels, Priority of National Circumstances, Ensuring Energy Security	Policy Advocates, Educators & Communicators, Community Leaders, Volunteers & Project Implementers
	<p>Youth engagement in Turkmenistan’s JET demonstrates structured policy consultation but limited influence in the energy sector. Nationally, youth achieve Level 5 participation through UNDP and EU-supported platforms such as the National Conference of Youth. However, energy-specific engagement remains at Level 4, with young people assigned technical roles, including the promotion of solar energy and energy-efficient buildings, but excluded from fossil fuel abatement strategies.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and initiatives.</b> The EU/GIZ-funded Public Outreach Strategy on Renewables trains youth as “Young Green Ambassadors.” UNICEF’s Youth Climate Summer School (2025) equipped 35 youth leaders with advocacy skills for COP29. The TurkmenYouth4SDGs platform mobilises students for SDG-focused projects, contributing to shifts in societal attitudes towards sustainability.</p> <p><b>Limitations and structural gaps.</b> Despite Turkmenistan’s pledge to reduce emissions by 2030, youth remain excluded from fossil fuel and methane reduction strategies. Most training and capacity-building initiatives are concentrated in Ashgabat, leaving rural communities near fossil extraction sites underrepresented.</p> <p>Overall, Turkmenistan’s youth are empowered as climate educators and community advocates but lack opportunities to advance from implementers (Level 4) to co-decision-makers (Level 6). Expanding rural outreach and integrating youth into fossil fuel abatement and emissions reduction strategies will be essential to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</p>				
Uzbekistan	Level 5: Consulted and Informed	Level 4: Assigned but Informed	Governments, International Organizations, Private Sector, NGOs	Renewable Energy Development, Digitalization & Smart Energy, Role of Transitional Fuels	Educators & Communicators, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Community Leaders, Policy Advocates
	<p>Youth engagement in Uzbekistan’s JET combines ambitious top-down policies with nascent grassroots mobilisation. Nationally, participation reaches Level 5 through UNDP-coordinated climate education reforms that influence curriculum design and the social components of the NDC. Energy-specific engagement remains at Level 4, with youth trained as solar technicians or “Young Green Ambassadors” but excluded from strategic decisions on transitional fuels, despite coal and oil accounting for about 84 per cent of the energy mix.</p> <p><b>Capacity-building and education pathways.</b> Specialised programmes at Tashkent State Technical University and partnerships with German and South Korean institutions support wind and solar training; vocational hubs train approximately 4,000 rural youth in solar installation and hydropower maintenance; initiatives such as ACWA Power’s Women’s Power Forum aim to boost female enrolment in energy colleges.</p> <p><b>Roles and participation.</b> Youth contribute primarily as implementers and educators in renewable projects and public outreach, with limited involvement in policy design or fuel-mix strategy.</p> <p><b>Gaps and structural constraints.</b> An urban–rural skills divide persists, with most training centred in Tashkent while many hydropower sites are rural; entrepreneurship pathways are limited in the absence of a dedicated youth innovation fund; skills mismatches remain and female participation in technical programmes is comparatively low.</p> <p>Overall, Uzbekistan demonstrates scalable engagement models such as the Young Green Ambassadors Network, but advancing from implementers (Level 4) to co-designers and co-decision-makers (Level 6) will require targeted financing, decentralised training and stronger inclusion of youth in strategic energy planning.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth Energy Engagement Level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
<b>Australia</b>	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Governments, International Organizations, Academia/Think Tank, Private Sector	Renewable Energy Development, Innovation in Energy Technology, Ensuring Energy Security	Policy Advocates, Industry Workforce, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Educators & Communicators
<p>Youth engagement in Australia exemplifies structured collaboration in climate policy, while energy-specific involvement remains largely consultative. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) institutionalizes youth input through the Climate Change and Water Youth Advisory Group, ensuring alignment with just transition principles such as equitable technology access and socio-economic stability. This engagement is particularly relevant given Australia’s dual challenge of phasing out coal while leveraging its mineral resources for renewable energy development.</p> <p><b>Roles and initiatives.</b> Youth serve as policy advocates, contributing to NDC 3.0 and as part of the industry workforce in mining-to-renewables supply chains. Initiatives such as Youth Hydrogen (YH2) foster innovators in green hydrogen, while private sector graduate programmes (for example, Rio Tinto) emphasize ESG standards to meet youth demand for ethical career pathways.</p> <p><b>Engagement gaps.</b> Youth remain underrepresented in land-use debates, with research highlighting insufficient involvement in biodiversity protection linked to renewable projects. Transitional fuels, such as gas, are underexplored in youth dialogues despite their importance in “firming” energy supply. The Coalition’s nuclear proposal has also proceeded without structured youth consultation, heightening uncertainty about future roles.</p> <p><b>International cooperation.</b> Global partnerships support youth engagement by providing research and planning tools. Princeton University’s “traffic-light” land-use model integrates Indigenous rights into energy planning, while Net Zero Australia studies inform future workforce pathways.</p> <p>Overall, youth in Australia are engaged through policy advocacy, innovation and workforce entry points, but meaningful inclusion in energy-sector decision-making—particularly on transitional fuels, biodiversity and nuclear energy—remains limited. Strengthening these areas is critical to advancing a just and inclusive transition.</p>					



## The Pacific

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth ENERGY Engagement level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
Fiji	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Governments, International Organizations, Grassroots Communities	Renewable Energy Development, Digitalization & Smart Energy, Energy Access & Rural Electrification	Community Leaders, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Educators & Communicators
	<p>Fiji exemplifies advanced youth empowerment in the energy transition, combining shared decision-making in climate policy (Level 6) with practical leadership in energy initiatives. The Government of Fiji and international partners, including UNDP and PIDF, institutionalize youth collaboration through platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Youth Environment Forum and the Fiji Youth Stakeholder Council, ensuring alignment with just transition priorities.</p> <p><b>Stakeholders and priorities.</b> Engagement focuses on renewable energy adoption, rural electrification and climate resilience—critical for small island developing States, where nearly half of communities lack clean cooking access.</p> <p><b>Youth roles and initiatives.</b> Young people act as community leaders and innovators, helping to bridge energy poverty gaps. Programmes such as SolarBuddy’s light assembly distributed 750 units in 2025, addressing socio-economic needs while equipping youth with technical skills.</p> <p><b>Gender and inclusion.</b> The gender–energy nexus is advanced through tools such as COMET, co-founded by youth to collect data on women’s energy access barriers, strengthening inclusive approaches to energy transition.</p> <p><b>Challenges.</b> Maritime communities face delays in accessing technology and funding, while youth-led start-ups encounter barriers in securing seed capital despite mentorship opportunities provided by UNDP.</p> <p>Overall, Fijian youth are empowered through structured collaboration and innovation, though targeted investment and expanded support for youth-led enterprises are needed to ensure equitable participation across all communities.</p>				
New Zealand	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Level 7: Youth-Initiated and Directed	Governments, Private Sector, NGOs, Students, Grassroots Communities, Media	Renewable Energy Development, Sustainable Social-Economic Development, Energy Efficiency and Energy Storage	Policy Advocates, Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers, Community Leaders
	<p>Government initiatives to engage young people include the Youth Plan, Youth Parliament, funding channels and a framework to incorporate sustainability education into schools. Direct engagement with youth on climate—and specifically energy—remains limited.</p> <p><b>Government initiatives and education.</b> Youth Plan, Youth Parliament and targeted funding mechanisms; environmental education identified as a priority with frameworks to integrate sustainability content in schools.</p> <p><b>Youth-led movements and advocacy.</b> Youth Climate Collective and Generation Zero organise community workshops and outreach; Generation Zero leverages social media and community mobilisation to advocate for national and subnational policy change; since 2019, School Strike 4 Climate has called for phasing out fossil fuels, investing in clean energy, rolling out climate education and, in 2025, repealing the Fast Track Approval Bill.</p> <p><b>Gaps in engagement.</b> Government engagement with youth is limited, largely to state funding for groups focused on education and engagement, with less support for broader advocacy and political activism related to climate and energy.</p> <p><b>Policy context.</b> The Zero Carbon Act (2019) commits New Zealand to a low-emissions economy by 2050 and states alignment with youth empowerment initiatives; the effectiveness of these efforts in enabling substantive youth participation in the energy transition remains unclear.</p> <p>Overall, New Zealand’s youth are active in community mobilisation and policy advocacy, but direct, energy-specific engagement with government remains limited, indicating scope to strengthen structured participation and influence in decision-making.</p>				

Country	Youth Engagement Known Participation Level	Youth ENERGY Engagement level	Key Stakeholder(s)	Area(s) of Energy Transition	Key Role(s) Youth Play in Energy
<b>Solomon Islands</b> <b>Marshall Islands</b> <b>Federated States of Micronesia</b> <b>Nauru</b> <b>Kiribati</b> <b>Palau</b> <b>Papua New Guinea</b> <b>Samoa</b> <b>Tonga</b> <b>Tuvalu</b> <b>Vanuatu</b>	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Level 6: Adult-Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Governments, International Organizations, Grassroots Communities, NGOs, Students	Energy Access & Rural Electrification, Ensuring Energy Security, Renewable Energy Development, Sustainable Social-Economic Development	Policy Advocates, Community Leaders, Educators & Communicators, Volunteers & Project Implementers
<p>Youth in the Pacific Islands have been highly vocal in advocating for ambitious climate action, linking human rights with climate change at both regional and global levels. The Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) successfully persuaded leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum to bring the issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and later to the United Nations General Assembly. Pacific youth were also instrumental in mobilising support from civil society, governments and delegations in the lead-up to the UNGA vote and in voicing perspectives during oral statements at the ICJ</p> <p><b>Climate advocacy and global leadership.</b> PISFCC and allied youth movements highlight the role of young Pacific Islanders in shaping international discourse on climate change, leveraging both regional and UN platforms to advance their agenda.</p> <p><b>Energy-specific engagement.</b> Through 350.org Pacific, youth launched the Our Pawa campaign calling for a safe and equitable renewable energy transition in the Pacific and Australia. The initiative emphasises renewable access in Pacific communities, Australia’s role in supporting the transition and the need for guidelines that address job security, fair training and migration pathways for Pacific Islanders.</p> <p><b>Capacity-building and regional initiatives.</b> The Pacific Youth Solar Challenge, coordinated by the Pacific Islands Development Forum and partners, mobilises young people across national competitions to promote solar energy solutions and highlight benefits for local communities.</p> <p>Overall, youth in the Pacific Islands act as powerful advocates for both climate justice and energy transition. While their activism is global in scope, their energy engagement increasingly connects to practical solutions for renewable access and socio-economic resilience across island communities.</p>					



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# YOUTH4JET

Youth as Partners in Achieving SDG7



