

JUNE, 2025



REA Advances DARES Implementation: 4 Companies Sign Grant Agreement for Isolated Mini-Grid Deployment through DARES Performance-Based Grant

The drive to deliver reliable electricity to rural, underserved communities got a major boost today as the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), through the Nigeria Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale Up (DARES) project, signed new grant agreements with four private sector developers for the deployment of isolated mini grid projects across Nigeria.

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REA PARTNERS WITH FCMB TO LAUNCH ₦100 BILLION FINANCING FACILITY TO ACCELERATE ELECTRICITY ACCESS FOR TWO MILLION HOUSEHOLDS



In a landmark move to bolster electricity access for millions of Nigerians, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and First City Monument Bank (FCMB) have on Thursday 19th June, 2025, at the bank's head-quarters in Marina, Lagos, entered into a strategic collaboration to provide a ₦100 billion loan facility targeted at accelerating private sector-led deployment of renewable energy solutions across the country.

The agreement supports the implementation of the Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-Up (DARES) initiative. It will enable the deployment of decentralised renewable energy projects aimed at delivering reliable power to approximately 2,000,000 households in unserved and underserved areas across the country. The signing of these agreements between REA and FCMB signifies the commencement of private sector investment in the Rural Electrification Agency's renewable energy space, which was catalysed by the \$750 million DARES World Bank funding.

The approval of DARES funding by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, its commencement, and the guidance of the Federal Ministry of Power will undoubtedly lead to increased private sector funding, accelerating the intended impact of supplying electricity to 17.5 million Nigerians in unserved and underserved communities.

Under this partnership, FCMB will provide a revolving loan facility of ₦1 billion per eligible mini-grid developer for a period of two years, with potential for scale-up. The facility will serve as a critical financial instrument for developers engaged under REA's DARES programme, which is an initiative designed to expand inclusive energy access and stimulate economic growth through the deployment of interconnected and isolated mini-grids, as well as productive-use applications.

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Clean Energy Scale-Up, DARES and the Federal Government's New Growth Trajectory – Abba Abubakar Aliyu Joins Global Leaders at the 2025 GOGLA

The MD/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Abba Abubakar Aliyu joined other frontline stakeholders and agency leaders from across the globe at the 2025 GOGLA Annual General Meeting on the 10th and 11th of June 2025. The Meeting, which held in Nairobi Kenya, served as a platform to showcase the REA's impact footprint while providing real insights on the World Bank-funded

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UK Government Applauds Minister Adelabu's Bold Energy Reforms at Africa Energy Forum



At the 2025 Africa Energy Forum (AEF), the energy conversation took a promising turn as His Majesty's Deputy Trade Commissioner for Africa, Ben Ainsley, sat down with Nigeria's Honourable Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, to explore deeper collaboration between the UK and Nigeria in the power sector.

While commending the thinking behind the roll out of Nigeria's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and the National Electricity Policy, two pivotal frameworks championed by the Honourable Minister to steer Nigeria toward a more reliable and sustainable energy future, the UK Government praised the Minister's leadership, explaining that these landmark initiatives, supported by the UK Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility (UKNIAF), highlight the UK's commitment to walking alongside Nigeria on its energy transition journey. The policies, approved by the Federal Executive Council in May 2025, serves as a strategic roadmap for achieving the national energy objectives in Nigeria.

During the meeting, the UK reaffirmed its readiness to share technical expertise in

grid stability, renewable energy integration, and metering, recognizing these as critical building blocks for a resilient power sector that can truly serve the needs of Nigerians. This renewed partnership is more than a diplomatic handshake; it reflects a shared ambition to unlock investment, expand energy access, and accelerate Nigeria's shift toward clean, dependable power. It's a clear signal that with the right collaborations, Nigeria's energy sector can become a cornerstone of economic growth and climate-smart development.





REA, Yobe State Convene Strategic Roundtable to Advance the Tenets of the 2023 Electricity Act and Unlock Local Investment in Yobe

In line with the advancement of the strategic engagement with the private sector and the sub-nationals, being led by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), towards the optimization of the tenets of the 2023 Electricity Act, the Agency convened the REA–Yobe State Roundtable themed “Powering Yobe, Powering Growth: Unlocking Energy Access for Agriculture, Innovation, and Local Investment”. The event which took place in Abuja on the 26th of June, 2025 ended with the official signing of the impact-focused Memorandum of Understanding between the REA and the Yobe State Government as well as the announcement of the State’s commitments by the Yobe State Governor. Now a strategic platform for impactful collaboration in the nation’s electricity market, the Agency invites frontline stakeholders in the clean energy ecosystem, including private sector players and development finance institutions to this strategic, solution-focused Roundtable.

Subsequent to the passage of the 2023 Electricity Act by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Yobe State Government has established, amongst other vital institutions and mechanisms, the Yobe State Agency for Public-Private Partnership and Investment Promotion (YAPPPIP), under the leadership of His Excellency, Hon. Mai Mala Buni, CON, the

Executive Governor of Yobe State. YAPPPIP was established to initiate, facilitate and consummate public-private-partnership (PPP) initiatives and develop appropriate institutional and regulatory framework for Investment Promotion in the state. This mechanism, and other forward-leaning strategic mechanisms the State has put in place, serves as a backbone for strengthening the renewable energy market in Yobe State.

While delivering his keynote, Governor Buni explained that

“the collaboration with the REA is targeted at deepening the State’s collaboration in pursuance of energy development in Yobe State in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu’s energy reform agenda for a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy access for all Nigerians

While highlighting the State’s ongoing efforts on energy, which includes the rehabilitation of dysfunctional transformers and existing infrastructure

in response to the increasing demand and the development of a 400KW phase of a 1MVA solar mini-grid project at the Yobe State University Teaching Hospital’s Maternity Complex, provided by the Federal Ministry of Power, the Governor gave assurances of his commitment to boosting the socioeconomic ecosystem of the State.



The MD/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency, Abba Abubakar Aliyu, the initiator of the impactful REA State-by-State Roundtables commended the Yobe State Governor’s forward-leaning approach to investment and socioeconomic development, decisive leadership and strong commitment to enabling the deployment of solar mini-grids in the State. Abba gave the REA’s assurances to position Yobe State as a renewable energy construction hub in the nearest future. While briefing the Yobe State Governor, the REA MD highlighted the REA’s impact footprint in the State, which includes the 50KW containerized solar mini-grid in both General Hospital Potiskum and Yobe Specialist Hospital, Damaturu; the



advancement of the development of six interconnected mini-grids to retrofit and strengthen grid reliability in high-demand areas, and the upcoming commissioning of a 1.5MW solar power plant at the Federal University, Gashua, under the Energizing Education Programme (EEP II).

Leaning on the strategic efforts of the

Honourable Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adedun, the REA's State-by-State Strategic Roundtables continue to serve as a meeting point for collaborative partnerships between the public and the private sector, with REA playing a pivotal role as a facilitator. By design, these State-by-State Roundtables are opportunities to exploit the tenets of the NESIP; strengthening PPPs for data-driven clean energy projects in the States; supporting the States' efforts on improved electricity distribution and renewable energy integration; exploring investment opportunities in the States' Electricity market and exploring technology options for improved, sustainable energy access in

the State.



Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-Up (DARES).



Abba presented comprehensive insights, complete with state-of-the-sector data on Nigeria's evolving off-grid solar policy and programme landscape, with a special focus on the strategic importance of the DARES as an initiative designed to bridge the energy access gap in the country. He explained that

As Nigeria emerges as one of the most significant growth markets for off-grid solar, the DARES project is designed to build on the strong foundation laid by the REA's Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP), with an ambitious and critical target of impacting 17.5 million Nigerians with clean energy, providing over 3 million households with new or improved electricity access and aiding the deployment of 465MW of solar PV capacity across the country

The focus of the Nigeria DARES spans isolated and interconnected mini-grids, as well as standalone solar systems, both for basic electrification and for powering productive use. As we scale-up, our focus remains clear: delivering sustainable energy solutions that drive economic growth, improve livelihoods, and accelerate energy access across Nigeria.





REA's Head of NEP Leads Conversation at ASIF 2025, Mainstreams Possibilities under the DARES

This June, the Head, Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP), Olufemi Akinyelure joined other global leaders in the energy access and climate action ecosystem at the 4th Annual Meeting of the Africa Sovereign Investors Forum (ASIF), hosted by the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA).

A key focus of this year's Forum, Olufemi moderated an insightful exchange on the critical role of Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) in bridging Africa's energy access and industrialization gaps, joined by two leading voices in the global energy space: Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO & Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and Ashish Khanna, Director General, International Solar Alliance.

The trio unpacked bold, actionable insights on how Africa's sovereign wealth funds can catalyze, including patient capital that enables long-term infrastructure development as well as local currency financing that protects against volatility and why collaboration not competition is the key to building resilient, scalable

energy systems.

As the Head of the Project Management Unit of Nigeria's Distributed Access through renewable Energy Scale-Up (DARES) programme, Olufemi explained that the DARES

“

exemplifies what is possible when sovereign-backed capital is deployed with purpose. With over \$1 billion in funding and a mission to accelerate access through decentralized, renewable solutions, DARES is an enabler to an energy sufficient future



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The companies, Messrs Al Futtaim Nigeria Limited, ASHDAM Solar, Darway Coast Nigeria Ltd, and Protergia Nigeria Ltd, have joined the growing portfolio of partners implementing isolated mini grid projects under Nigeria DARES. Collectively, they will deploy solutions that are expected to connect more than 19,000 households and businesses, providing clean and reliable power to communities that have long lacked access to electricity.

The newly signed agreements cover mini-

grid developments across several states:

- ✓ Al Futtaim Nigeria Ltd will deliver 6 mini grids in Kano State, with a combined capacity of 720 kWp and 6,852 connections.



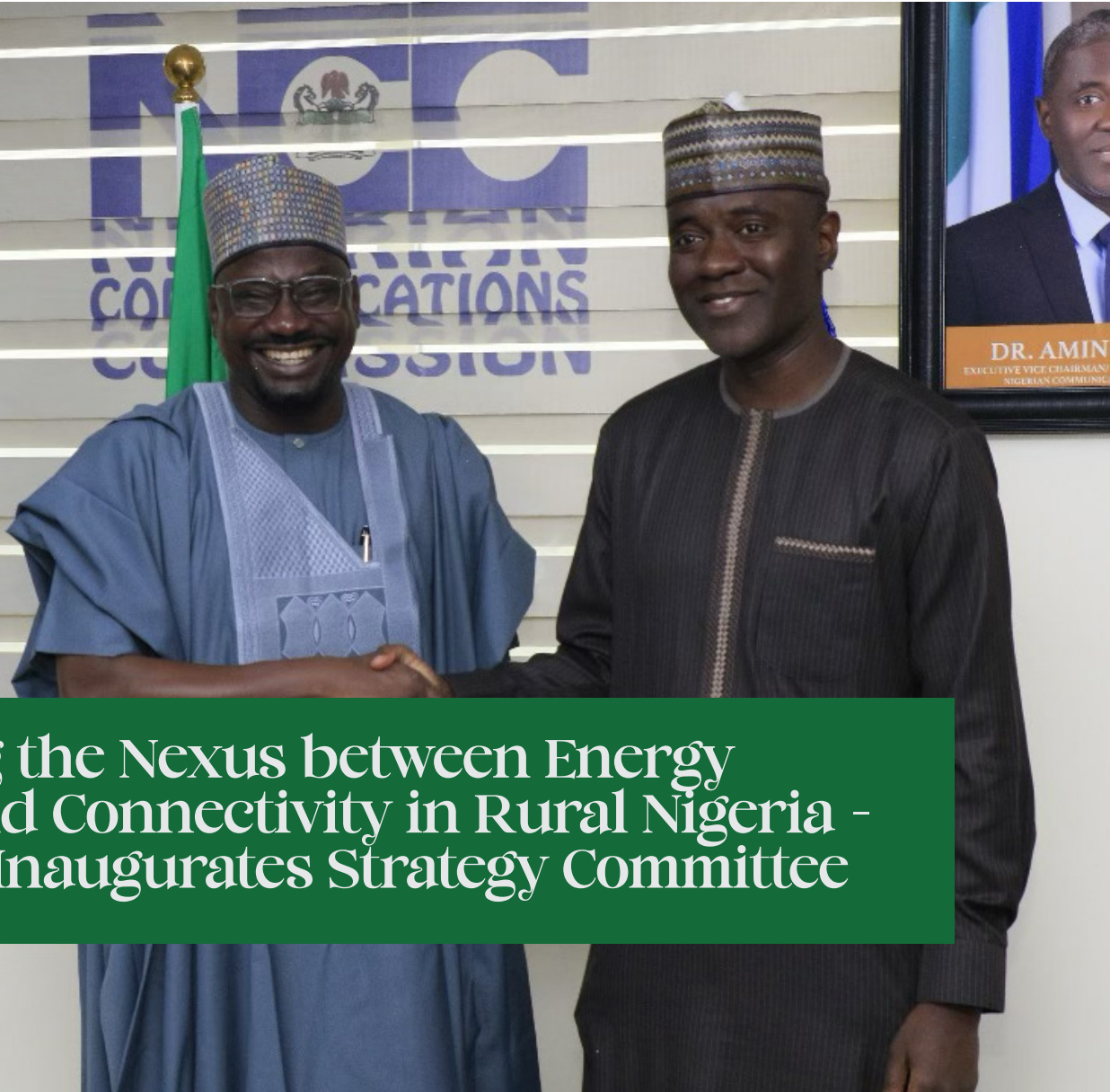
connecting over 5,800+ people to reliable power.

The Performance Based Grant (PBG) provides incentives tied to verified connections ensuring that funding directly supports real, measurable impact on the ground. Today's agreements mark the second set of grants signed under the PBG Isolated Mini Grid subcomponent of DARES, expanding the initiative's portfolio to five private sector developers delivering off grid energy solutions at scale.



- ✓ ASHDAM Solar will build 3 mini grids in Oyo State, delivering 156.9 kWp of capacity and 790 connections.
- ✓ Darway Coast Nigeria Ltd will install 11 mini grids across Delta, Bayelsa, Imo, Rivers, Abia and Cross River States, targeting 12,299 connections and delivering a total capacity of 2.3 MW.
- ✓ Protergia Nigeria Ltd to deploy 5 mini grids in Ondo & Taraba State,





Exploiting the Nexus between Energy Access and Connectivity in Rural Nigeria - REA, NCC Inaugurates Strategy Committee

On Friday the 27th of June 2025, after months of exploratory meetings and strategic deliberations, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) officially inaugurated the strategy and steering committee tasked with implementing the objectives of the REA – NCC partnership.

A timely collaboration, this partnership is targeted to enhance connectivity and energy access in unserved and underserved areas in Nigeria, aligning with the nation's national digital and electrification goals.

It ultimately presents a transformative opportunity to address the connectivity-energy gap in Nigeria. By leveraging REA's energy solutions and the NCC's telecom expertise, this partnership will drive digital and economic inclusion,

ensuring sustainable development in rural communities.

While highlighting the REA's inclusive approach to national development, the MD/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency, Abba Abubakar Aliyu explained that the connection between energy access and rural



telephony cannot be overemphasized as they work together to catalyze socioeconomic growth in Nigeria. Abba further explained that the opportunity cost of energy poverty and inequality in data connectivity automatically leads to economic exclusion, which stifles



development efforts.

While commending the REA's data-centric approach to improved energy access, the Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Dr. Aminu Maida gave assurances of the Commission's commitment to working collaboratively with the REA to achieve success. He also urged members of the committee to work strategically, while prioritizing the role of both agencies.

REA Partners With FCMB to Launch N100 Billion Financing Facility to Accelerate Electricity Access For Two Million Households

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Speaking at the event, Abba Abubakar Aliyu, Managing Director and CEO of REA, emphasised the strategic importance of the collaboration. He stated, "This partnership signifies a significant milestone in addressing one of the biggest challenges in decentralised renewable energy deployment—access to finance. Through this facility, developers will have better access to funding that will enable them to scale and meet electrification targets, thus improving the quality of life in rural and peri-urban communities."

Yemisi Edun, Managing Director and CEO of FCMB, stated, "Our partnership with the Rural Electrification Agency represents a pivotal step in our commitment to powering inclusive growth and economic resilience across Nigeria. Access to reliable energy is a catalyst for enterprise, education, and improved livelihoods, making it a critical development goal. Through this collaboration, we are combining financial innovation with infrastructure delivery to ensure underserved communities are not left behind. Together, we are building pathways for people to thrive by unlocking the power of energy to transform homes,

businesses, and entire communities."

A key highlight of the launch was the introduction of a "Deal Room". This is a dedicated platform for project developers to engage with REA and FCMB on project financing, structure, and disbursement processes. This will enable developers to better understand the eligibility criteria and project evaluation mechanisms.



The partnership structure provides that FCMB will finance up to 70% of approved project costs, while REA will domicile performance-based grant payments into a reserve account within FCMB to further de-risk the transactions.



Through this collaborative approach, REA and FCMB reaffirm their commitment to bridging Nigeria's energy access gap, promoting private sector participation, and unlocking investment opportunities within the renewable energy sector.



REA Extends Support for Local Manufacturing as Abba Aliyu Graces TRANOS' Ground-breaking of 800MW Solar PV Factory

In line with the REA's sustained efforts and strategic collaborations with the private sector, the MD/CEO of the Agency, Abba Abubakar Aliyu visited Mowe community in Ogun State this month where he attended the official ground-breaking ceremony of the 800MW, 157, 440 square metres PV Factory by TRANOS, a manufacturing company delivering innovative solutions in the clean energy space in Nigeria.

By design, the TRANOS facility, upon

completion in 18 months will initially operate one manufacturing line, with production capacity of 400MW annually, while the full 800-megawatt capacity is targeted for 2027.

While giving his remarks at the event, Abba Abubakar Aliyu commended the daring feat, expressing his delight on increased private sector participation in the nation's renewable energy sector as the renewable energy scale-up phase takes flight. He explained that the factory will contribute significantly to Nigeria's

renewable energy goals, improve local expertise and eliminate dependence on importation.

Abba added that the REA remains committed to driving transformative initiatives in the clean energy sector while leaning on the Federal Government's policies, including the "Nigeria First" initiative introduced by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.





Powering Security: REA Commissions 3rd Smart Police Station

The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) has sustained its commitment to powering security across Nigeria, following the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Agency and the Nigeria Police Trust Fund (NPTF) in October 2024 to electrify police facilities nationwide. This month, the Agency officially powered On clean energy infrastructure at the third Smart Divisional Police Station through a 20kW rooftop solar system at Ekinrin-Adde, Kogi State.

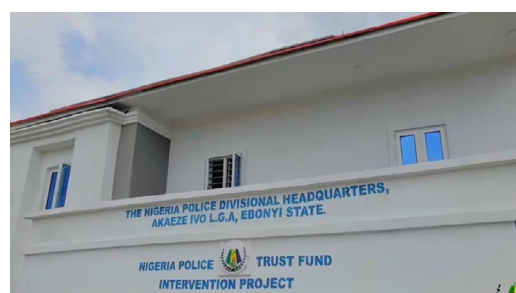
Prior to the Ekinrin-Adde intervention, the Agency had recently powered the Katampe Divisional HQ, FCT and the Akaeze Ivo Divisional HQ, Ebonyi State. This effort will continue nationwide in line with the directive of the Honourable Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu.

The partnership with the Nigeria Police Trust Fund, the MD explained is

“ driven by its dynamic and visionary leadership, represents a shared commitment to achieving smart, secure, and sustainable policing infrastructure across Nigeria

He emphasized that:

“ the REA remains resolute in rewriting history and our mission to support national development by providing reliable, renewable, and affordable electricity to critical public institutions.





Akwa Ibom Governor Receives REA Delegation as the Agency Provides Highlights of Transformative Projects in the State

On the 20th of June 2025, His Excellency, Governor Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom State received the delegation from the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), led by the MD/CEO, Abba Abubakar Aliyu at Akwa Ibom State Government House. This visit is part of the REA's sustained collaboration with the sub-nationals to aid strategic growth across the State energy markets and catalyze investment opportunities in the nation's energy sector.

While briefing the Governor, Abba Abubakar Aliyu provided a comprehensive overview of the Agency's 12 core programmes, with

particular emphasis on the ongoing construction of a 2.9MW solar hybrid power plant at the University of Uyo under the Energizing Education Programme Phase III (EEP III), a flagship project that promises to transform the learning environment and catalyze institutional sustainability through clean, reliable electricity.

The Agency's MD/CEO commended the state's visionary ARISE Agenda, which focuses on Agricultural Revolution, Rural Development, Infrastructural Maintenance and Advancement, Security, and Education and Health, noting that each pillar aligns directly with REA's

nationwide mandate to bridge the energy access gap and drive inclusive socio-economic growth through decentralised renewable energy solutions.

While highlighting the Agency's transformative programmes such as the DARES (Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up) and E-H.E.A.R.T. (Energising Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, and Rural Communities, and Transportation), Abba Aliyu explained that the REA's initiatives present immense opportunities for scaling distributed renewable energy deployment across key sectors.





Spotlight on Abba as REA Features at 2025 OSEAS

Abba Abubakar Aliyu, the MD/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) joined other global stakeholders at the 2025 Open Source in Energy Access Symposium (OSEAS), in Nairobi, Kenya where he mainstreamed the Agency's data-driven initiatives and collaborations with EnAccess to pilot MicroPowerManager (MPM), an open-source customer management platform built specifically for mini-grid operators.



The Managing Director of Coleman Wires and Cables, George Onafowokan, takes Abba Abubakar Aliyu, the MD/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) on a tour of the brand's mega factory located in Arepo community, Ogun State. The REA MD commended the ingenuity of the Coleman Executive Management and urged them to uphold their dedication to strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem in Nigeria. George Onafowokan is equally the current Chairman, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Ogun State.

UNEP-U4E and Nigeria's Rural Electrification Agency Launch Pilot for Off-Grid Refrigeration

UNEP's United for Efficiency (U4E) initiative signed a landmark agreement with Nigeria's Rural Electrification Agency (REA) to pilot the deployment of energy-efficient, climate-friendly off-grid refrigeration solutions in rural communities.

The project seeks to address one of the most pressing gaps in rural energy access: the lack of sustainable cooling for food preservation, healthcare, and economic development. The joint team will work with local companies to test scalable models for enhancing access to refrigeration in characteristic underserved areas in Nigeria.

"Access to reliable and sustainable refrigeration is a cornerstone of development. Through this collaboration with REA, we are not only promoting the adoption of energy-efficient and climate-friendly technologies in an off-grid setting but demonstrating how practical collaboration can empower families and local businesses, strengthen food systems, and build resilience", said Brian Holuj, U4E's Programme Manager.

As the primary implementing partner, REA will build on its extensive experience in deploying off-grid energy solutions. This project aligns with the REA's objective of promoting energy-efficiency to complement off-grid electrification efforts.

"This partnership with U4E initiative marks a significant step forward in our mission to deliver not just electricity access, but meaningful development for Nigeria's rural communities. Through access to off-grid refrigeration solutions, households, farmers, and clinics can preserve food and medicine more effectively, helping to reduce waste, improve the preservation of food, and creating new economic opportunities that align with our national electrification and resilience goals", said Abba Aliyu, Managing Director of the Rural Electrification Agency.

The project will be implemented in three phases:

- ✓ **Market Assessment** – Identifying rural communities with strong demand for off-grid refrigeration and mapping local needs, supply chain gaps, and explore potential business models.
- ✓ **Community Awareness and Engagement** – Organizing stakeholder workshops and local engagement campaigns to build understanding and interest in the technology.
- ✓ **Pilot Deployment** – Installing a minimum of 40 off-grid refrigeration units in selected communities. These systems will be closely monitored to evaluate technical performance, user experience, and their broader

socio-economic impact.

REA with U4E technical assistance will identify pilot sites, facilitate deployment and monitoring, and coordinate community engagement. The project is expected to run through October 2025 and will culminate in a comprehensive impact assessment and policy recommendations for scaling up through future project opportunities.

The pilot will use the Model Quality and Performance Guidelines for Off-Grid Refrigerating Appliances developed by U4E in consultation with leading global experts, ensuring that high-quality, environmentally responsible technologies are promoted. The results are expected to help inform national policy, spur market development, and support Nigeria's broader climate and energy goals.

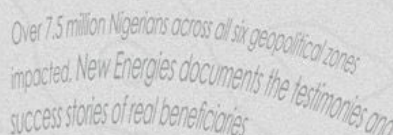
By piloting innovative off-grid solutions tailored to the socio-economic and environmental conditions of rural areas, this initiative aims to drive sustainable development, building upon U4E's ongoing successful work in Nigeria on new air conditioner regulations and complementing a new consumer finance scheme for cooling appliances.



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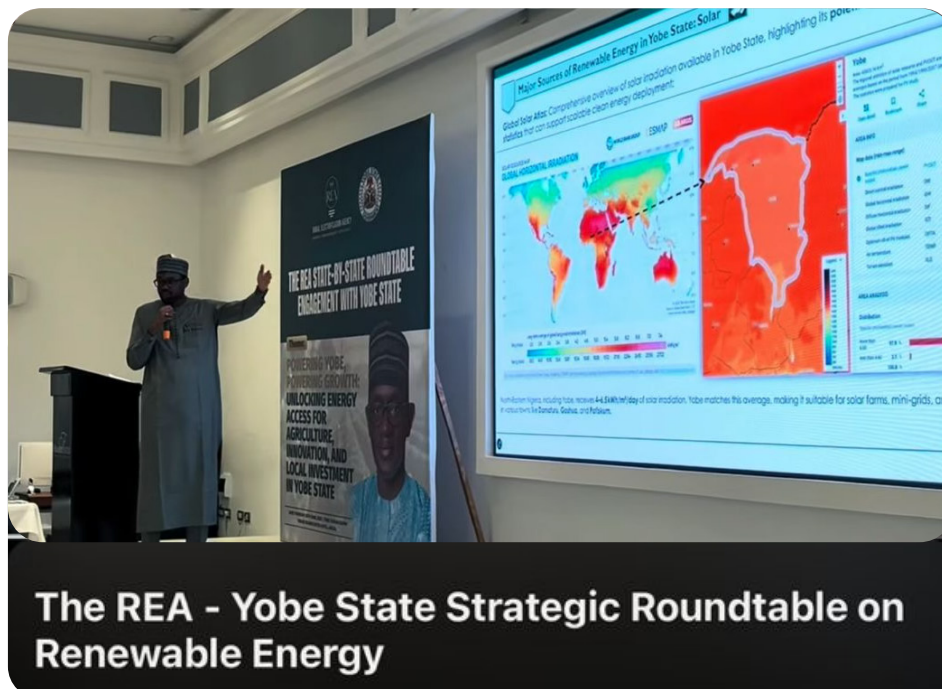
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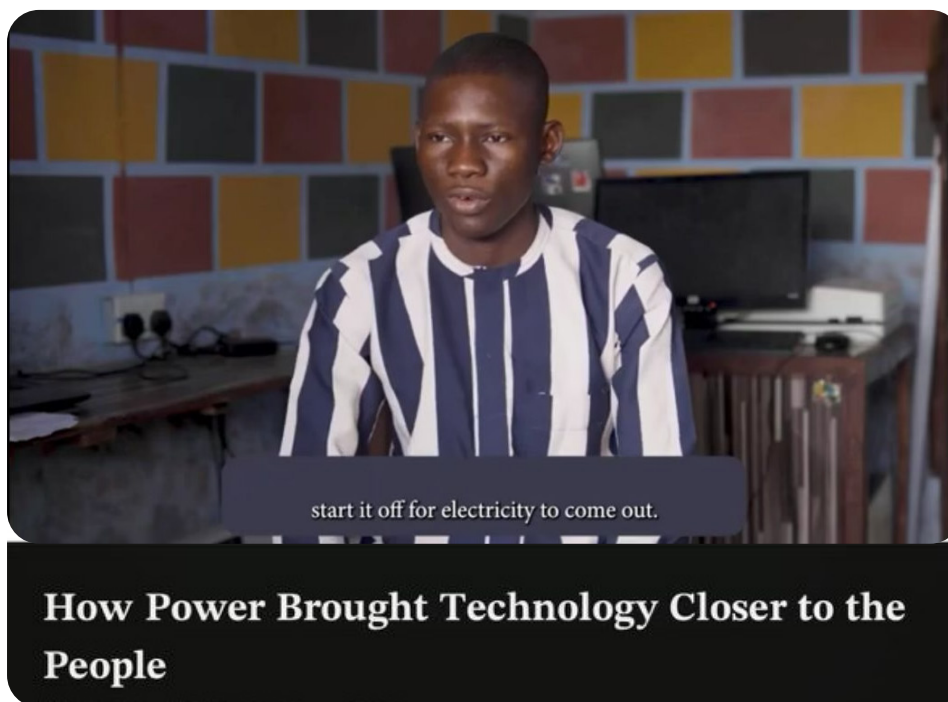
carefully curated visual and narrative compendium that captures the human impact, institutional value, and cross-sectoral relevance of the Programme.

Click Image to Take a Tour of the History of Sustainable Impact – Access the REA-NEP Legacy Photobook

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