



Climate Parliament

19 February 2011

Dear Member of Parliament,

As you know, one of the greatest challenges facing less-industrialised countries today is how to provide access to modern energy facilities for the estimated 1.6 billion people worldwide who have no access to electricity. In a world scrambling to respond to the experience of rapidly-escalating global warming, the challenge is all the greater: how can energy services be rolled out on a massive scale without locking nations in to the use of polluting and increasingly expensive fossil fuels such as oil and gas?

In rural areas, where the national grid does not reach or where the grid already experiences energy shortages and power cuts, there is one solution that is fast gaining in popularity. **Village-level mini-grids** can connect plentiful local renewable energy sources such as sun, wind and biomass into small-scale electricity grids that provide reliable and inexpensive power for rural people.

We appreciate that most legislators are extremely busy and may not have the time to research this promising solution in detail, so we have compiled some helpful materials to enable you to examine whether this could be an answer in your country. In this pack, you will find everything you need to raise the mini-grid issue in your own parliament. The pack contains:

- a set of model questions to ask the relevant Minister or Prime Minister during a parliamentary questions session
- a model letter to send to relevant ministers or civil servants
- a toolkit for MPs, including case studies and a policy background paper
- a set of key policy principles that can be adapted to your own local context

The Climate Parliament can provide assistance, advice and further documentation to help you follow up this issue and other climate- and energy-related issues in your parliament. Please don't hesitate to contact me on james@climateparl.net.

You can find an electronic version of this pack, including a Word version of the letter ready to complete and send, as well as other toolkits for MPs, at our website at www.climateparl.net

We would be much obliged if you would contact us to keep us informed of any parliamentary initiatives that you take on the basis of these resources.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Corre', with a large, stylized initial 'J' on the left and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Corre
Programme Officer for Climate, Energy and Ecosystems