



SMART VILLAGES
New thinking for off-grid communities worldwide



The Smart Villages Off-grid Energy Impact Competition

We want to hear about how **your**
rural **energy access** programme
has acted as a **catalyst** for
economic and **community development**

Guidance for Applicants

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INTRODUCTION

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), approximately 1.3 billion people worldwide lack access to electricity. The IEA has estimated 70% of new connections in rural areas will need to be 'off-grid' in order to meet the UN's goal of universal electricity access by 2030.

Within India, the Cabinet has recently approved the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) with the objective to transform rural areas into economically, socially and physically sustainable spaces. The SPMRM aims to create 300 'smart village' clusters in India over the next three years.

Governments, donors, academics and NGOs have all acknowledged the important role entrepreneurs play in improving energy access. The Smart Villages Off-grid Energy Impact Competition is a national open competition established to highlight cases where energy access has acted as a catalyst for economic and social development, to support the entrepreneurs running these initiatives and to inspire others to extend energy access to more Indian villages.

The winning entrepreneur will receive a INR 10 lakh cash award, business support from the Entrepreneurial Development Institute of India and will be offered a spot on the main stage at the World Sustainable Development Forum (WSDS), courtesy of TERI.

THE BASICS

Questions	The Answers
Who?	Entrepreneurs running energy access initiatives for rural villages in India
What?	An off-grid energy access competition for INR 10 lakh in prize capital, business support from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India and a spot on the main stage at WSDS
When?	27 October – competition launch 18 December – closing date for first round applications 25 February – winner announced
Where?	Entrepreneurs based in India and supplying energy to Indian villages
Why?	To highlight examples where energy is acting as a catalyst for development, to support entrepreneurs working towards to 'smart villages' vision and to inspire more entrepreneurs to work in the off-grid energy space

COMPETITION DETAILS

Nearly all stakeholders agree that providing energy access to rural populations is critical for national development, but many questions remain on how to deliver these services to India's diverse range of villages. Despite technological and financial innovation for off-grid energy services, distribution and implementation remain challenging.

This competition seeks to highlight sustainable examples where village-level energy access is being used as a catalyst for economic and social development and to give energy entrepreneurs a platform to explain how they achieved this. Several of the fourteen components suggested in the SPMRM vision for 'smart villages' are dependent on reliable, off-grid energy access. These components include:

- Skill development training linked to economic activities
- Agro Processing/Agri Services/Storage and Warehousing
- Digital Literacy
- Sanitation
- Provision of piped water supply
- Solid and liquid waste management
- Village streets and drains
- Street lights
- Fully equipped mobile health unit
- Upgrading school /higher education facilities
- Inter-village road connectivity
- Citizen Service Centres- for electronic delivery of citizen centric services/e-gram connectivity
- Public transport
- LPG gas connections

In the online application, we ask you to describe how your off-grid energy initiative has impacted lives in an Indian village in at least one of the above areas, demonstrating how energy access has enabled elements of a 'smart village.'

Criteria for Proposal Selection

A panel of experts from research and technology in the renewable energy industry will assess and evaluate proposals received through the Smart Villages web portal. This competition is open to entrepreneurs who are currently running energy access projects. Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate how energy access is impacting the components listed above and are supported by sustainable business delivery models.

Assessment criteria will include:

- Impact (how is energy impacting development, specifically in the 14 listed areas?)
- Level of project development (is the programme up and running? for how long?)
- Sustainability (in terms of the business and the environment?)
- Innovation (is there something new about the technology or delivery model?)
- Replicability (could this initiative or elements of it scale to other parts of India?)

Entrance Criteria

This competition is open to all enthusiastic entrepreneurs, individuals and organisations running energy access programmes and businesses in rural villages in India. Priority will be given to entrepreneurs who have demonstrated success in their approach and who would benefit from winning the competition.

Applicants should be able to travel to the World Sustainable Development Forum. Please visit dsds.teriin.org for the most up to date conference information. Travel costs will be reimbursed by Smart Villages.

Competition Outcomes

One winner will win INR 10 lakh in prize capital from Smart Villages and business support from the Entrepreneurial Development Institute of India.

They will also win a trip to the World Sustainable Development Forum where the award will be announced on the main stage.

HOW TO ENTER

This section provides practical guidance on how to complete the web application form. Only applications submitted via the official website will be considered. If you choose to submit an application, your name and a case study of your energy access programme may be made public through the Smart Villages website, social media channels or other publicity materials. Any questions can be directed to competition@e4sv.org.

Your information

Please read this guidance document before submitting an application. In order to keep you informed about Smart Villages, we would like to add your contact details to our database to tell you what we're working on in India and other parts of the world. Please opt out at the appropriate part of the application if you would not like to receive the Smart Villages newsletter.

Application Title

You may submit different applications for different programmes, but only one application per individual will be able to progress to the second stage.

Full Name, Email and Phone Number

Enter the name, preferred email address and phone number of the primary contact for your application. We will not share your email address or phone number with third parties.

Energy Programme Location

Enter your city, town or village in the blank field and choose the Indian state from the drop down menu provided

Applicant background (maximum 200 words)

Please tell us about your background, including experience in the off-grid energy market, and reasons why believe this competition will help you and your business

Your village energy access programme

In this section please describe your programme for increasing village-level energy access in Indian villages. Smart Villages may publish some or all of this information as a case study on their website <http://e4sv.org>

Programme overview (maximum 250 words)

Provide a short description of your off-grid energy programme, referencing the assessment criteria in this guidance. You may wish to include how many people you provide energy access to, the date you started providing energy and how your programme is financially and environmentally sustainable.

What you have already achieved

The Indian Cabinet has recently approved the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) which suggests fourteen components for a 'smart village.' From the menu, select which components your programme impacts.

Vision for the future (maximum 250 words)

Please describe how energy access will enable continued development in the village detailed in your application. How are you working towards the vision of a 'smart village?' How will your energy business benefit from the prize capital funding?

Photographs and links

Please attach at least one photograph and any links to websites relevant to your programme.

Components of a Smart Village

- Skill development training linked to economic activities
- Agro Processing/Agri Services/ Storage and Warehousing
- Digital Literacy
- Sanitation
- Provision of piped water supply
- Solid and liquid waste management
- Village streets and drains
- Street lights
- Fully equipped mobile health unit
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- Inter-village road connectivity
- Citizen Service Centres- for electronic delivery of citizen centric services/e-gram connectivity
- Public transport
- LPG gas connections

COMPETITION RULES

General

- The competition is divided into two phases: a short online application and a second round which may include more in depth questions and/or phone interview
- The judges' decision is final
- Applications must be submitted via the Smart Villages website to be considered
- Smart Villages is not responsible for awards contributed by third parties

Phase one – brief application

- The first phase of the competition opens on 27 October 2015
- Complete the application form with your details and your programme description
- Applications must be submitted in English
- Submit the final application form via <http://e4sv.org/competitions/enter/apply/> before 12pm IST on 18 December 2015
- Each application will be reviewed against the same set of assessment criteria
- Following scoring, short-listed candidates will be notified if they have been chosen to progress to the next round
- All other applicants will be informed by email they have not progressed further
- All panel documents and ranking sheets are confidential and will not be shared following the assessment process

Phase two – extended application and interviews

- Shortlisted candidates will be notified by email and be asked to describe aspects of their programme in greater depth
- Applicants chosen as finalists may also be asked to complete a phone interview to discuss their energy programme
- Following extended applications and interviews, a review panel will make a final assessment to choose a winner and runners up

Winner announcement

- A winner will be announced via the Smart Villages, TERI and communication partners' networks and will be offered a spot on the main stage at WSDS to describe the impact of their energy access business
- Winners will receive 90% of prize capital following the close of the competition. The remaining 10% will be due on the one year anniversary of the competition, pending submission of an update on the energy programme over the past year.

KEY DATES

Date	Event
27 October	Submissions open for India Off-grid Energy Impact Competition
18 December	Closing date for first round of applications
January	Finalists invited to complete second phase of application
12 February	Deadline for full applications and phone interviews
25 February	Winner announced and invited to attend World Sustainable Development Forum

OTHER INFORMATION

About Smart Villages

The Smart Villages Initiative is a three year project evaluating ways of providing off-grid energy as a catalyst for development for rural villages and encouraging the transfer of knowledge and experience between different developing regions. Through a series of international workshops and follow-up activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, our aim is to provide policy makers, donors, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders with new insights into the challenges of supplying village-level energy and how they might be overcome.

About TERI

All activities in TERI, the largest developing-country institution working towards sustainability, move from formulating local-and national-level strategies to shaping global solutions to critical issues. Towards this end, we have established regional centres in Bengaluru, Goa, Guwahati, Mumbai and the Himalayas. We have also set up affiliate institutes – TERI-NA, Washington, DC, USA, and TERI Europe, London, UK – and also have a presence in Japan, Malaysia, and the UAE. We have also established a research base in Africa with an aim to both provide technical assistance as well as facilitate exchange of knowledge amongst the communities in various African states.

Feedback

Please let us know how you heard about us and how you think we could reach more potential competition entrants in the future. All competition related communications can be directed to competition@e4sv.org.