



THE CHARTER OF DEMAND: Call to Action to Nigerian Government



Key stakeholders can support Nigerian women in agriculture and small businesses in accessing renewable energy solutions. For each target group, we call for specific actions:

PROMOTE FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

1. Establish a Renewable Energy Fund for Women

The government should create a dedicated fund that provides low-interest loans, grants, and subsidies specifically for women entrepreneurs looking to adopt or invest in renewable energy technologies. This fund could be managed by a public-private partnership involving the government, Renewable Energy Companies, and microfinance institutions.

2. Create a Guarantee Fund:

Establish a government-backed guarantee fund to reduce the risk for banks when lending to women for renewable energy projects, incentivizing them to provide loans.

3. Implement Tax Incentives and Import Duty Exemptions

- a) Provide tax credits and exemptions on import duties for women-led businesses that invest in renewable energy equipment and technologies.
- b) Implement targeted subsidies for

renewable energy products specifically for women-led businesses and households. This can lower the upfront costs of solar panels and other RE technologies.

4. Partner with Financial Institutions for Tailored Products

- a) RE and Women associations should engage with government and regulatory bodies (Central Bank of Nigeria) to create policies that mandate banks to allocate a percentage of their loans specifically for sustainable projects like renewable energy projects, especially those led by women.
- b) Encourage the development of alternative financing options such as the use of cooperatives that could focus on providing loans for renewable energy initiatives for their members.
- c) Establish microfinance initiatives that provide low-interest loans to women for purchasing renewable energy systems.
- d) Financial institutions can develop gender-focused financial products that address the unique needs of women. For instance, Access Bank Nigeria has segmented its offerings to cater specifically to women entrepreneurs, providing loans alongside business support services. Such initiatives can help women-owned businesses thrive in

the renewable energy sector, thereby increasing their participation and impact. These could include flexible repayment plans, lower interest rates, and reduced collateral requirements.

SUPPORT LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES AND PROCESSES

1. Establish Community-Based Renewable Energy Centers

State and Local Governments can set up renewable energy centers in rural communities that provide training, technical support, and access to technologies for women entrepreneurs. These centers could be managed by local women's groups and supported by the government and NGOs.

2. Provide Grants for Community-Led Projects

State governments, philanthropies, politicians and development partners can offer grants to community-based organizations and women's groups to develop and implement renewable energy projects tailored to local needs.

3. Collaborate with NGOs and Development Partners

Renewable energy providers can collaborate with philanthropist, non-governmental organizations and private companies to create initiatives that support

women in adopting renewable energy solutions. This can include joint ventures, funding opportunities, or shared resources. These partnerships can help in distributing renewable energy technologies, providing training, and facilitating access to financing.

4. Crowdfunding Platforms:


REAN, NGOs and other financial institutions can establish crowdfunding platforms dedicated to renewable energy projects that can empower women to raise funds for their initiatives. By showcasing their projects, women can attract support from individuals and organizations interested in promoting gender equality and sustainable energy solutions.

5. Streamline Regulatory Processes

- a) Simplify the permitting and licensing processes for setting up renewable energy projects, making it easier for women entrepreneurs to navigate the system.
- b) Provide clear guidelines and support to help women-led businesses comply with regulations and access necessary approvals.

6. Incentives for Local Manufacturing:

Encourage local manufacturing of renewable energy products through tax breaks or grants, making these technologies more affordable and accessible for women.

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



THE SKILLED
WOMEN INITIATIVE