



### Opening Thoughts

### 10 Positive Results from 2014

The end of the year is always a good time to step back and reflect on what we have achieved personally, organizationally and as part of a growing sector. It is also a good time to relax and revitalize so that we can open the new year with rejuvenated spirits and attitudes.

As we close our 4<sup>th</sup> year of operation, ASD looks back on a great year. We had assignments in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Djibouti, Mozambique, Malawi, Burundi and Rwanda. Our work ranged from energy audits to system installation and from policy study to project management.

We consider ourselves lucky to be involved in a growing industry at an interesting time. We are privileged to work with so many committed individuals and groups that are struggling to build the renewable energy sector and to increase energy access in this region.

As we close 2014, we at ASD take this opportunity to showcase some of East Africa's developments in renewable energy and green economy. Our short-list gathers some of the year's highlights.

Thinking forward, we also make a list of 2015 New Years Resolutions for East Africa that we hope can be achieved.

We wish you and your families the best holiday season and a green and prosperous new year.

***From all of us at ASD!***

There was lots of good news for renewable energy and energy access this year globally and in East Africa. Too much to include in a list with limited space. Here is a synopsis of some of the most exciting stories and trends.

1. **Africa** is increasingly viewed as a destination for renewable investment. In 2013, South Africa was 4th globally in share of GDP invested in renewables. Kenya was 4 globally in geothermal investment. <http://www.ren21.net/gsr>
2. **Kenya**. Several hundred megawatts of geothermal power were added to the Kenya's grid. <http://tinyurl.com/qzkc33k>
3. **Ethiopia**. At least 100MW of wind power was added to Ethiopia's grid. <http://tinyurl.com/q7yoetl>
4. **South Africa** passed 1GW in installed solar capacity & built up its ambitious solar program even more. <http://bloom.bg/1yGUZe3>
5. **Rwanda** opened East Africa's largest PV farm (8.5 MW). <http://tinyurl.com/l1nnbkf>
6. **Kenya** Power added a record number of new customers. 443,254 connections is the highest number of customers ever connected in a single financial year.
7. **Africa**. Solar lighting products are touching the lives of 28.5 million people in Africa. <http://tinyurl.com/mokvmsj>
8. **Kenya**. Williamson Tea opened Kenya's largest PV system (1MW) in Bomet. Solar Century/Azimuth completed the installation.
9. **Tanzania**. The first major commercial investment was made in off-grid PV in East Africa. Solar City invested \$7M into Off-Grid Electric in Arusha. <http://tinyurl.com/nn7waef>
10. **Global**. World PV growth continues. 2014 PV demand estimated at 44 GW. Expects 2015 to top 50 GW. <http://tinyurl.com/qyttjxu>



## 2015 Renewable Resolutions

Overall, we'd like to see stronger civil society support for renewables and green energy as well as more national attention to decentralized solutions. Here are some of the things we will be working on in 2015:

1. **Kenya (and region).** Continued leadership and investment in geothermal and wind power sources.
2. **Kenya.** Lets get net metering regulations passed (and included in the 5000MW plan) so that the private sector can invest in renewables directly.
3. **Rwanda.** We'd love to see another 10 MW of solar installed on EWSA's grid.
4. **Kenya and Tanzania.** Let's prepare robust "Sustainable Energy for All" Investment Prospectus & Action Agendas that include well-developed energy access components.
5. **Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania.** Here's to rapid progress with the US Power Africa program.
6. **Region.** Let work for stronger incentives and for more investment in off-grid solutions (including stand-alone solar and private sector-led mini-grids).
7. **Global.** A strong Paris COP Agreement with agreed carbon emissions ceilings and increased support for developing country renewable investment.



### About this newsletter

*RE TRENDS EAST AFRICA* is a quarterly newsletter produced by ASD in a deliberate move to share its knowledge and expertise of the East African region that spans over 25 years. We cover emerging innovations and technologies and showcase energy trends in the region to paint a picture of the sector and the direction it is taking. At ASD we provide a range of technical, consultancy and capacity building assistance in the renewable energy sector with a focus on commercial and rural energy solutions.

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