



SNV Energy in Asia

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Across Asia, SNV has enabled over eight million people to access sustainable, affordable energy, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in growing clean energy markets.

These results span clean cooking, biodigesters, waste-to-energy, solar energy, and industrial decarbonisation—contribute through market-based programmes across eight Asian countries: Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Bhutan.

SNV is a mission-driven global development partner working across more than 20 countries in Asia and Africa. For SNV, the energy transition means building the markets, institutions, and partnerships needed to shift energy systems towards solutions that are clean, inclusive, and commercially viable. It also means delivering benefits across health, food systems, livelihoods, and climate.

With deep expertise in translating policy into implementation, SNV mobilises finance, strengthens inclusive business models, engages private-sector actors from SMEs to larger enterprises, and supports behaviour change that drives lasting adoption.

The challenge

South and Southeast Asia are projected to account for 25% of global energy demand growth by 2035.¹ The region is also among the most climate-exposed, with ASEAN countries alone experiencing more than USD 124 billion in weather-related economic losses since 1993.² This convergence of rapid growth and climate urgency is creating unprecedented demand for solutions that deliver energy security, economic returns, and emissions reductions simultaneously.

The region's diversity is not a barrier to investment—it is a source of strategic advantage. It spans rapidly growing middle-income economies and least developed countries. Each presents different levels of infrastructure maturity, institutional capacity, and market readiness, creating multiple entry points across technologies, geographies, and risk profiles. Yet private capital remains underleveraged, particularly in early-stage, decentralised, and frontier markets where first-mover advantage is greatest.

The industries driving the transition—solar, clean cooking, e-mobility, biofuels, and supply chain decarbonisation—are fast-growing markets in their own right. Carbon markets, meanwhile, are emerging as a cross-cutting financing layer that can unlock revenue streams across these sectors. Scaling, however, requires more than technology: it demands skilled workforces, functioning supply chains, supportive regulation, and investable business models. Between 2021 and 2025, 50–60% of renewable energy projects in Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia stalled due to grid, regulatory, and permitting bottlenecks³—not for lack of capital, but because the enabling ecosystem was not yet in place.

Southeast Asia's green economy has reached USD 290 billion, yet a gap exceeding 35% persists between announced and deployed green investment⁴—highlighting the need for stronger mechanisms to translate commitments into projects.

¹ IEA, Southeast Asia Energy Outlook 2024.

² DNV, Southeast Asia Energy Transition Outlook 2025, citing Met Office (2024).

³ Bain & Company and Standard Chartered, Southeast Asia's Green Economy Report 2026: The New Calculus, May 2026.

⁴ Ibid.



Where we work in Asia

SNV supports inclusive energy transitions across South and Southeast Asia. Working with governments, businesses, financial institutions, and communities, we help build sustainable energy markets that improve livelihoods, strengthen climate resilience, and reduce emissions.

Our programmes are adapted to local contexts and opportunities, spanning clean cooking, biogas, renewable energy, industrial decarbonisation, and climate finance. SNV currently works across **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam.**



SNV role

SNV supports emerging Asian economies to deliver inclusive energy transitions at scale.

SNV occupies a distinctive position in Asia. We are deep enough in local markets to understand what works and connected enough globally to bring in what is needed. We are not a technology provider or a financier; we are the partner that makes markets function, connects the right actors, and ensures the transition reaches the people and businesses it needs to.

What we deliver

1. Integrated energy solutions across interconnected systems

Asia's energy challenges intersect with food security, water management, public health, and climate resilience. SNV designs and implements programmes that work across these boundaries—linking clean cooking with improved nutrition, biogas with soil health and circular agriculture, and renewable energy with decarbonising agricultural value chains. This cross-sectoral approach delivers multiple returns—environmental, economic, and social—from a single investment.

2. Finance mobilisation for underserved markets

The capital to fund Asia's energy transition exists, but it is not reaching the markets that need it most. SNV bridges this gap by deploying results-based and carbon finance mechanisms, building the investment readiness of local enterprises and SMEs, developing bankable project pipelines, and working within blended finance structures to convert announced commitments into deployed capital — particularly in early-stage and last-mile markets.

3. Market and ecosystem building for emerging industries

New energy industries—from e-mobility and clean cooking to sustainable aviation fuels and supply chain decarbonisation—cannot scale on technology alone. They require skilled workforces, functioning supply chains, supportive regulation, and viable business models. SNV builds these ecosystems from the ground up: co-developing business models with companies, supporting governments on enabling policy, strengthening local enterprises, and connecting producers, financiers, and service providers across the value chain.



Working principles

Locally led, globally connected: Over 90% of staff are based in-country, enabling context-specific approaches built on long-term relationships, while drawing on global knowledge, partnerships, financing, and innovation.

Equity, inclusion, and gender at the centre: Energy transitions must create opportunities and protect livelihoods for women, youth, and underserved communities—not as an add-on, but as a design principle.

Evidence-based and adaptive: We scale based on evidence, using digital tools and data to track what works and iterate approaches across diverse markets.

Partnership-driven: We convene governments, the private sector, financial institutions, and communities—translating aligned incentives into coordinated delivery at scale.

This combination of focused delivery and embedded principles is what allows SNV to catalyse self-sustaining markets, institutions, and enterprises that continue to deliver impact long after project cycles end.

Approach: Catalysing inclusive energy transitions at scale in Asia

SNV's approach in Asia supports the development of sustainable energy markets from a systems-based perspective, catalysing locally grounded, financially viable, and scalable solutions. Our practice is grounded in decades of implementation experience and a clear recognition that lasting impact emerges when technical solutions are embedded within functioning systems. Lasting change depends on markets, institutions, and communities that continue to function beyond project lifecycles.



We structure our approach around six mutually reinforcing pillars.

1. De-risking investment and enabling regulation

We deploy results-based mechanisms and carbon finance to make early-stage opportunities investable. We also work with governments and regulators to establish the policies, standards, and frameworks that reduce market uncertainty for private investors.

How we work with the private sector and financiers

SNV works alongside companies, investors, and financial institutions not as a traditional implementing partner, but as an operational partner that reduces risk, builds markets, and unlocks returns.

- De-risking investment and enabling regulation
- Building investable pipelines from origination to outcome
- Nurturing clean energy entrepreneurs and scaling SMEs
- Strengthening supply chains at the agriculture-energy nexus
- Developing carbon projects with verified co-benefits and community engagement
- Supporting biofuels and waste-to-energy across agricultural and urban systems

SNV's role is to make the commercial case work—for investors seeking returns, for companies managing risk, for governments building enabling frameworks, and for the communities and markets where the transition must take root.



2. Building investable pipelines from origination to outcome

We support investors across the capital deployment process—from identifying prospects and strengthening business cases to post-investment technical assistance. Our work integrates ESG, climate, and inclusive business priorities into deal design and delivery.

3. Nurturing clean energy entrepreneurs and scaling SMEs

Through initiatives like the Green Innovation Grants Initiative (GIGI), SNV provides catalytic grant funding, tailored business coaching, and matchmaking with financiers to help climate-tech SMEs build commercial viability and attract follow-on investment. We also help international companies localise technologies for Asian markets.

4. Strengthening supply chains at the agriculture-energy nexus

We help companies and producers meet tightening regulatory requirements — from deforestation-free sourcing to traceability and ESG reporting—while simultaneously improving supply chain productivity, climate resilience, and energy efficiency. By working across both farming practices and energy systems, SNV addresses the interconnected challenges of sustainable production and clean energy adoption within agricultural value chains. This integrated approach protects market access and generates the proof points needed to unlock co-investment from DFIs and foundations.

5. Developing high-integrity carbon projects with verified co-benefits and strong community engagement

SNV brings on-the-ground implementation capacity and technical expertise across clean cooking, biodigesters, agroforestry, and nature-based solutions to develop carbon projects that deliver verified emissions reductions alongside measurable co-benefits. Our long-standing community engagement and presence in host countries reduces origination risk and positions us to support governments in building Article 6-aligned carbon market frameworks.

6. Biofuels and waste-to-energy across agricultural and urban systems

SNV has one of the longest track records in biogas and biofuels deployment in Asia. This experience spans farm-level biodigesters—linking livestock waste management with renewable energy, bio-fertiliser, and circular agriculture—to municipal waste-to-energy systems. We work with local governments, waste operators, and private investors to structure commercially viable resource recovery models that reduce methane emissions while generating revenue from energy, fertiliser, and carbon markets.

Featured projects

DFCD | Global | Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs | 2019-2027 | €200 million

The Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD) steers capital towards projects that strengthen the climate resilience of climate-vulnerable populations and ecosystems across multiple countries. SNV identifies and supports businesses to de-risk investments and prepare for financing that delivers impact at landscape scale. Projected impacts of the fund include a reduction of 5 million tCO₂e per year in greenhouse gas emissions, 150,000 ha of forests and wetlands sustainably managed, and €2 billion in private finance mobilised.

SHIFT | Vietnam | International Climate Initiative | (IKI) | 2023 - 2028 | €1.5 million

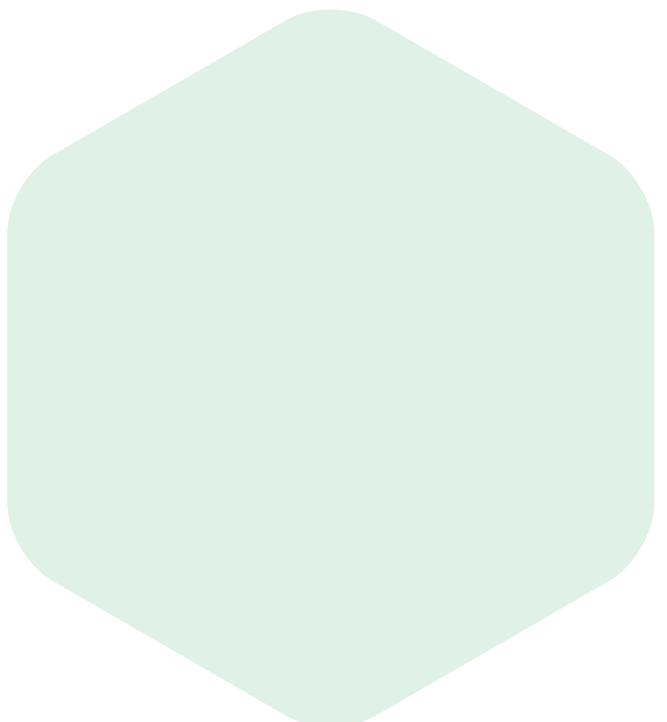
The Shifting Investment Flows Towards Green Transformation (SHIFT) project supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in piloting and commercialising innovative solutions that advance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other clean energy technologies in Vietnam. Through catalytic grant funding (€15,000-25,000 grants) and tailored capacity building under the Green Innovation Grants Initiative (GIGI), the project helps strengthen investment readiness and market uptake.

Eligible SMEs will be selected through up to two public calls for proposals in 2026 and 2027. Priority consideration is given to women-led enterprises and businesses demonstrating strong commitments to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI).

GIGI acts as a catalyst for scalable, sustainable impact—bridging innovation and investment to empower Vietnamese SMEs, driving the country's clean energy transition.

REBFF | Nepal | Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism | 2019-2022 | €315,000

Funded by the Austrian Government and implemented by REEEP, in partnership with SNV and NMB Bank Nepal, the Austria Nepal Renewable Energy Blended Finance Facility (REBFF) supported Nepal's renewable energy transition through blended finance and capacity building. It aimed to expand commercial lending for renewable energy, strengthen provincial stakeholders, and shift the market from subsidy dependence to credit-based financing. The project also reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increased the use of productive energy.





BeCA | Vietnam | DFAT | 2021-2024 | €460,000

Bio-energy for Circular Agriculture (BeCA) supports the scale-up of biogas-to-electricity solutions for livestock farms in Vietnam through technical assistance, partnerships, and market-based financing. The project helps farms convert waste into clean energy, reducing emissions and energy costs while advancing circular agriculture, access to climate finance, and gender-responsive approaches across Vietnam’s livestock and clean energy sectors.

Since 1992, SNV and its partners have installed **over 1 million biodigesters globally**, helping households and businesses reduce emissions, improve energy access, and strengthen circular agricultural systems.

EnDev III Nepal | Nepal | 2020-2025 | €763,000

The project expanded access to clean energy in remote communities through pico-hydro systems and improved cooking technologies, supporting households, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and local enterprises. One of the key focus areas was strengthening agro processing through mechanised milling and productive energy use for rural businesses. The project also created jobs, reduced energy poverty, promoted clean cooking markets, and strengthened local capacity for sustainable energy planning and financing.

In its final two years, the programme focused on developing and promoting electric cookstoves in underserved rural municipalities.

WwW Phases I and II | Bangladesh | 2017-2021 | The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands | circa €4 million

Working with Women (WwW) Phases I and II reached over 85,000 women workers across 20 garment factories in Bangladesh through Inclusive Business models that promoted integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), workplace wellbeing, and women’s economic empowerment. Building on partnerships with over 200 Dutch-Bangla companies, the programme strengthened responsible business practices, supported women-led entrepreneurship, and promoted energy-efficient and decentralised production approaches that improved resilience, productivity, and sustainable livelihoods in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector.

Clean cooking initiatives

- Bangladesh Energy Access to Modernisation (BEAM and BEAM+) Fund | Bangladesh | 2022-2025 | EnDev | €0.5 million
- National eCooking Strategy | Lao PDR | 2025 | €140,000
- Smoke-Free Villages | Cambodia | 2020-2025 | EnDev | €XX
- EnDev III Nepal | Karnali, Sudurpaschim, and Lumbini Provinces | 2023-2025 | €1 million

Across Bangladesh, Lao PDR, and Nepal, SNV has advanced clean cooking through consumer subsidies, results-based financing, market development, behaviour change campaigns, support for national strategies, supply chain strengthening, and entrepreneurship development. These approaches have expanded access to electric cooking and improved cookstoves while delivering health, gender, environmental, and livelihood benefits at scale.

About SNV

SNV is a global development partner, deeply rooted in the countries where we operate. We are driven by a vision of a better world: A world where across every society all people live with dignity and have equitable opportunities to thrive sustainably. To make this vision a reality, we need transformations in vital agri-food, energy, and water systems. SNV contributes by strengthening capacities and catalysing partnerships in these sectors. We help strengthen institutions and effective governance, reduce gender inequalities and barriers to social inclusion, and enable adaptation and mitigation to the climate and biodiversity crises.

Building on 60 years of experience we support our partners with our technical and process expertise and methodological rigour. We do this in more than 20 countries in Africa and Asia with a team of approximately 1,600 colleagues. By being adaptable and tailoring our approaches to these different contexts, we can contribute to impact at scale, resulting in more equitable lives for all.





Impact
that matters



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