Institutional Profile

Under the National Electrification Scheme (NES), Ghana's Government proposed expenditure of about US$350,000 for renewable energy between 1996 and 2000, especially for the development of solar energy industries. The Government is committed to electrifying all communities with a population size of over 5000 by 2020. RE technologies such as PV are included[i], mostly through the *Self Help Electrification Program (SHEP)*[ii]. Plans also exist for the Volta River Authority to build a 300MW thermal power plant, while Ghana National Petroleum Company is installing a 150 MW natural gas power plant. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Spanish Government conduct programmes in the country.

Empretec Ghana Foundation and the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) have been active over the last couple of decades facilitating the development of private enterprises in Ghana. [iii]

Government Energy Organisations

Organisation	Activity
Volta River Authority (VRA), Electricity Corporation of Ghana (ECG) and the Northern Electricity Department (NED) of VRA	National electricity generation and transmission, Government owned
Energy Sector Development Program, initiated by the former National Energy Board (NEB), now under MOME	National Energy Policy
Ministry of mines and Energy (MOME), (renewable energy unit)	National Energy Policy
Solar Laboratory at Mechanical Engineering Department of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Agricultural Engineering Department of KNUST(biogas development), Physics Department of the University of Ghana, CSIR, FORIG	Research & Development

[i] Energy assessments show that it is cheaper to electrify communities using decentralised systems when they are more than 20km from the electric grid.

[ii] Communities who were eager to receive electricity supplies ahead of the NES scheduled dates were encouraged to initiate their own project through the establishment of the SHEP. Under the SHEP, communities who have raised funds to purchase local materials such as low-tension poles, and are ready to provide communal labour to erect the poles are considered and assisted to complete their electrification projects. The government is also required to provide technical and financial support for construction of the network.

[iii] Abeeku Brew-Hammond p.10