

Institutional Profile

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Industry (MEMI), the Direction of Energy determines general policy for the electricity sector. In April 1998, a new law was passed which included several new reform initiatives in the energy sector, including liberalisation related to the production, distribution and sale of electricity, and the privatisation and restructuring of SENELEC (see privatisation/regulation).

Also included in this law was the creation of an autonomous regulatory commission to manage a system of electricity sector licenses and concessions, and a Senegalese Agency for Rural Electrification (ASER), to guarantee cooperation between electric companies and private interests, particularly in the provision of technical and financial assistance related to rural electrification projects. ASER also develops electrification programs as defined under the Ministry of Energy's overall strategy.

Along with these structural changes, the Ministry of Energy aims to achieve levels of electrification of 60% in 2000 and 70% in 2005 in urban areas; and of 15% in 2000 and 40% in 2005 in rural areas. In this context Senegal has placed some emphasis on the incorporation of renewable energy in its national electricity production, especially solar energy. The implementation of 5 solar energy projects is envisaged.¹

Government Energy Organisations

Organisation	Activity
Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Industry (MEMI), Direction of Energy	Policy making in the electricity sector
Regulatory Commission	Control of production, transport, distribution and sale of electricity
Senegalese Agency for Rural Electrification (ASER)	Cooperation between electric companies and private interests, development of electrification programmes
Center for Renewable Energy Research and Study (CERER); National College of Polytechnics, Solar Energy Research Department	R&D of RE technologies

Decentralisation:

Decentralisation efforts by the Government have positioned the rural communities as the driving forces in the implementation of rural development projects and in finding partners for their financing. In each of the regional, urban, and rural communities the Government has given local bureaus and their elected council members more financial autonomy, allowing communities to plan and implement economic and social development schemes. In this context, NGO's also play an important role in national and local policy-making. In order to capitalise on these new opportunities, a number of legally-recognised collectives were formed, of which the largest are ONG-FONG, a federation of NGO's, and the Council of NGO's for Development (CONGAD), with over 100 members. The most effective institutions involved in the promotion of photovoltaics are often rural associations which, beyond their participation in rural solar energy projects, also play a central role in the activities of their community.

¹ Areed Senegal Report, p.7