
Abbreviations and acronyms

CDM	Clean Development Mechanism	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CH₄	methane	VRE	variable renewable energy
CO₂	carbon dioxide	WACC	weighted average cost of capital
CO₂e	carbon dioxide equivalent		
GDP	gross domestic product		
GHG	greenhouse gas		
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH		
GWh	gigawatt-hour		
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency		
IEA	International Energy Agency		
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change		
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency		
IRR	internal rate of return		
kWh	kilowatt-hour		
LCOE	levelized cost of electricity		
MRV	monitoring, reporting and verification		
MtCO₂e	mega-tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent		
MW	megawatt		
MWh	megawatt-hour		
NDC	nationally determined contribution		
PV	photovoltaic		
RE	renewable energy		
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal		
tCO₂e	tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent		

Glossary

Activities	The administrative activities involved in implementing a policy (undertaken by the authority or entity that implements the policy), such as permitting, licensing, procurement, or compliance and enforcement
Assessment period	The time period over which GHG impacts resulting from a policy are assessed
Assessment report	A report, completed by the user, that documents the assessment process, and the GHG, sustainable development and transformational impacts of a policy
Barrier	Any obstacle to developing and deploying an RE potential that can be overcome or attenuated by a policy, programme or measure
Baseline scenario	A reference case that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the absence of a policy (or package of policies) being assessed
Causal chain	A conceptual diagram tracing the process by which a policy leads to impacts through a series of interlinked logical and sequential stages of cause-and-effect relationships
Electricity grid (grid)	A network consisting of wires, switches and transformers to transmit electricity from power sources to power users. A large network is layered from low-voltage (110–240 V) distribution, over intermediate voltage (1–50 kV) to high-voltage (above 50 kV to MV) transport subsystems. Interconnected grids cover large areas (up to continents). The grid is a power exchange platform enhancing supply reliability and economies of scale.
Emission factor	A factor that converts activity data into GHG emissions data
Ex-ante assessment	The process of estimating expected future GHG impacts of a policy (i.e. a forward-looking assessment)
Ex-post assessment	The process of estimating historical GHG impacts of a policy (i.e. a backward-looking assessment)
Expert judgment	A carefully considered, well-documented qualitative or quantitative judgment made in the absence of unequivocal observational evidence by a person or persons who have a demonstrable expertise in the given field ⁶⁵
Feed-in tariff	The price per unit of electricity that a utility or power supplier has to pay for distributed or renewable electricity fed into the grid by non-utility power producers
GHG assessment boundary	The scope of the assessment in terms of the range of GHG impacts included in the assessment
GHG impacts	Changes in GHG emissions by sources that result from a policy
Grid access	The acceptance of power producers to deliver to the electricity grid

⁶⁵ IPCC (2006).

Impact assessment	Estimation of changes in GHG emissions or removals resulting from a policy, either ex-ante or ex-post
Independent policies	Policies that do not interact with each other, such that the combined effect of implementing the policies together is equal to the sum of the individual effects of implementing them separately
In-jurisdiction impacts	Impacts that occur inside the geopolitical boundary over which the implementing entity has authority, such as a city boundary or national boundary
Inputs	Resources that go into implementing a policy, such as financing
Intended impacts	Impacts that are intentional, based on the original objectives of the policy. In some contexts, these are referred to as primary impacts.
Interacting policies	Policies that produce total effects, when implemented together, that differ from the sum of the individual effects had they been implemented separately
Intermediate effects	Changes in behaviour, technology, processes or practices that result from a policy, which lead to GHG impacts
Jurisdiction	The geographic area within which an entity's (such as a government's) authority is exercised
Key performance indicator (indicator)	A metric that indicates the performance of a policy
Levelized cost of electricity (LCOE)	The unique cost price of the outputs (US cent/kWh or USD/GJ) of a project that makes the present value of the revenues (benefits) equal to the present value of the costs over the lifetime of the project
Long-term impacts	Impacts that are more distant in time, based on the amount of time between implementation of a policy and its impacts
Monitoring period	The time over which a policy is monitored, which may include pre-policy monitoring and post-policy monitoring in addition to the policy implementation period
Negative impacts	Impacts that are perceived as unfavourable from the perspectives of decision makers and stakeholders
Net metering	The practice of using a single meter to measure consumption and generation of electricity by a small generation facility (such as a house with a wind or solar PV system). The net energy produced or consumed is purchased from, or sold to, respectively, the power producer.
Non-policy drivers	Conditions other than RE policies, such as socioeconomic factors and market forces, that are expected to affect the emissions sources included in the GHG assessment boundary
Out-of-jurisdiction impacts	Impacts that occur outside the geopolitical boundary over which the implementing entity has authority, such as a city boundary or national boundary
Overlapping policies	Policies that interact with each other and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect less than the sum of their individual effects when implemented separately. They include both policies that have the same or complementary goals (such as national and subnational energy efficiency standards for appliances) and counteracting or countervailing policies that have different or opposing goals (such as a fuel tax and a fuel subsidy).

Parameter	A variable such as activity data or emission factors that are needed to estimate GHG impacts
Policy or action	An intervention taken or mandated by a government, institution or other entity, which may include laws, regulations and standards; taxes, charges, subsidies and incentives; information instruments; voluntary agreements; implementation of technologies, processes or practices; and public or private sector financing and investment
Policy implementation period	The time period during which a policy is in effect
Policy scenario	A scenario that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the presence of a policy (or package of RE policies) being assessed. The policy scenario is the same as the baseline scenario except that it includes the policy (or package of policies) being assessed.
Positive impacts	Impacts that are perceived as favourable from the perspectives of decision makers and stakeholders
Power purchase agreement (PPA)	A contract between an electricity (power) producer and an electricity consumer (or distributor). Historically, PPAs have been signed between utilities and independent power producers as a way for the utility to procure additional generation. In recent years, PPAs have been used as a way for power consumers to purchase electricity, often from solar systems, from a third-party power producer (National Renewable Energy Laboratory definition).
RE addition	The additional installation of RE capacity or electricity generation from renewable sources realized via a policy, expressed in megawatts (MW) or megawatt-hours (MWh), respectively
Reinforcing policies	Policies that interact with each other and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect greater than the sum of their individual effects when implemented separately
Renewable energy	Any form of energy from solar, geophysical or biological sources that is replenished by natural processes at a rate that equals or exceeds its rate of use. Renewable energy is obtained from the continuing or repetitive flows of energy occurring in the natural environment. It includes low-carbon technologies such as solar energy, hydropower, wind, tide and waves, and ocean thermal energy, as well as renewable fuels such as biomass.
Renewable portfolio standard	A legal mandate that requires utilities to procure a certain percentage or flat amount of renewable electricity or power, based on their total generation. Utilities can procure the RE via direct ownership or the purchase of RE credits (National Renewable Energy Laboratory definition).
Short-term impacts	Impacts that are nearer in time, based on the amount of time between implementation of a policy and its impacts
Solar energy	Energy from the sun that is captured either as heat, as light that is converted into chemical energy by natural or artificial photosynthesis, or by PV panels and converted directly into electricity
Stakeholders	People, organizations, communities or individuals who are affected by, and/or who have influence or power over, a policy

Sustainable development impacts	Changes in environmental, social or economic conditions that result from a policy, such as changes in economic activity, employment, public health, air quality and energy security
Transmission and distribution	The network that transmits electricity through wires from where it is generated to where it is used. The distribution system refers to the lower-voltage system that delivers the electricity to the end consumer.
Uncertainty	(1) Quantitative definition: Measurement that characterizes the dispersion of values that could reasonably be attributed to a parameter. (2) Qualitative definition: A general term that refers to the lack of certainty in data and methodological choices, such as the application of non-representative factors or methods, incomplete data or lack of transparency.
Unintended impacts	Impacts that are unintentional based on the original objectives of a policy. In some contexts, these are referred to as secondary impacts.
Utility	An entity in the electric power industry that engages in electricity generation and distribution of electricity for sale, generally in a regulated market
Weighted average cost of capital (WACC)	The rate that a company is expected to pay, on average, to all its security holders to finance its assets, including the fraction of each financing source in the company's capital structure

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Contributors

Methodology development leads

Markus Hagemann, NewClimate Institute (technical lead)

Frederic Hans, NewClimate Institute (co-lead)

Heather Jacobs, Verra (co-lead)

Victoria Novikova, Verra (co-lead)

Drafting team

Jerry Seager, Verra

Maria Jose de Villafranca Casas, NewClimate Institute

Niklas Höhne, NewClimate Institute

Ritika Tewari, NewClimate Institute

Takeshi Kuramochi, NewClimate Institute

Technical Working Group

Bamshad Houshyani, Greenovation (lead reviewer)

Chirag Gajjar, World Resources Institute India

Derik Broekhoff, Stockholm Environment Institute

Ernst Worrell, Utrecht University

Gil Nemes, independent consultant

Jongikaya Witi, independent climate change mitigation MRV expert (lead reviewer)

Jorge Rodrigues de Almeida, RdA – Climate Solutions

Matthew Brander, University of Edinburgh

Miao Ren, Energy Institute, China

Miquel Muñoz, Boston University Global Economic Governance Initiative (lead reviewer)

Sina Wartmann, Ricardo Energy & Environment

Stan Kolar, Center for Clean Air Policy

Steve Thorne, independent consultant

Willy Alarcon, GIZ

Reviewers

Alex Pennock, Center for Resource Solutions

Babacar Sarr, ENERTEC-SARL

Corinna Schmitt, GIZ

Emma Maxwell, independent consultant

Franck Jacques Pondéou Gohoungbre, Ministère du Plan et du Développement du Bénin

John Venezia, ICF

Luis Alberto de la Torre, Repsol

Raihan Uddin Ahmed, Infrastructure Development Company Limited

Sergio Pacca, University of São Paulo

ICAT country applications

Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, Cambodia

Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development, Republic of Mozambique

TERI Energy and Resources Institute, India