

Energy Transition Academy

Capacity development and peer community to empower the leaders we need to achieve our shared climate goals faster, together.



The Need

There is urgent need to decarbonize the energy sector to prevent unchecked global temperature rise and avoid the most extreme impacts of climate change. While every nation is impacted, countries in the Global South bear the inequitable brunt of its effects. Despite their low contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and islands regions are particularly vulnerable and are already experiencing health, economic, environmental, and safety impacts of climate change.

We must break the cycle of inequity between developed countries and emerging and developing countries, and move past top-down development approaches. Further, we need to discover and empower energy leadership already prevalent in these countries to catalyze decarbonization action at the pace and scale required to combat climate change.

Global “climate solutions” are often far removed from more immediate needs such as achieving universal energy access and affordability, creating local energy resilience, and building sustainable economic growth, jobs, and wellbeing. There is little access to curated information relevant to the unique challenges and decisions leaders of these countries are dealing with in their day-to-day responsibilities.

Missing from the global energy landscape are opportunities for energy leaders in the Global South to

directly connect with peers who are confronting similar challenges. Such community is needed to help facilitate the sharing of resources and best practices across the Global South during this decisive decade for climate action. It is also needed to enable leaders to amplify their current work and voice into the global conversation, and quickly learn from and support each other during implementation.

The Approach

RMI is proposing to launch the Energy Transition Academy, a global platform for energy leaders to access curated information, tools, peer-to-peer problem-solving, and coaching networks. The goal of the Academy is to provide Global South energy leaders with the community, skills, experience, and tools to act at the pace and scale needed to meet the climate challenge. Collectively, we intend for these resources to address the daily challenges of decision makers and practitioners in the clean energy transition.

The Academy will primarily support senior- and mid-level energy practitioners in utilities, renewable and distributed energy companies, and regulatory bodies. It will also engage legislators, public officials, investors, and influencers who can enable the transition. Initially, the Academy will focus on developing countries and emerging markets where RMI has on-the-ground operations, including sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and island nations. Over time, the Academy will

expand to support the energy transition globally, with a focus on underserved communities. The Academy will focus on electricity system transformation in the context of the overall energy transition, with ancillary focus on sectors that interface with the electricity system such as the transportation and building sectors.

The Academy’s Design

RMI’s current design hypothesis is that the Academy will consist of four pillars:

- 1. Global Learning Platform:** Curated content, training, one-stop shop for best practices, templates, and peer-to-peer exchanges.
- 2. Energy Leadership Accelerator:** Leadership training and networks designed to provide confidence in making informed decisions.
- 3. Experience Exchange Program:** Hands-on experience with real-time projects and decision-making in peer settings.
- 4. Communities of Practice:** Collaboration and networking with peers facing similar challenges.

Initially, participation in the Academy will be drawn primarily from RMI and partner organization stakeholders to ensure the platform is grounded in real-world projects and challenges. Champions will be identified to act as content providers to the training curriculum and raise the profile of the Academy with peers. RMI will also review existing learning platforms—including the RMI-supported Caribbean Renewable Energy Community virtual platform (<https://community.carilec.org>)—to determine how the learning platform can enhance already established e-learning platforms and not re-invent the wheel. This process will utilize open-source tools and leverage partnerships to facilitate a level of interoperability with existing platforms.

We Want to Work with You

RMI is in the early stages of building the framework for the Energy Transition Academy. We are eager to collaborate with you and your organization to maximize community impact and accelerate a locally led, global energy transition. Your engagement and voice will shape the Academy; it’s critically important that we understand your needs and existing learning and training resources. We are prepared to listen and learn to ensure the Academy amplifies the best-in-class work that has been done and is under way.

If you’d like to partner with us or collaborate with RMI’s Academy team, email us at ETA@rmi.org.

