

The Hidden Side of Energy Access: Understanding Clean Cooking

September 7 - October 1, 2021

Virtual Knowledge Exchange

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Event Schedule

Session 1: Making the Case for Modern Energy Cooking Solutions (MECS)

Live Webinar **September 7, 2021**
 8:30-10:00am ET | 12:30-2:00pm GMT | 9:30-11:00pm Korea

Self-Paced Week 1

Session 2: The Entrepreneurial Journey

Live Webinar **September 13, 2021**
 8:30-10:00am ET | 12:30-2:00pm GMT | 9:30-11:00pm Korea

Self-Paced Week 2

Session 3: Innovating Financing Instruments for Clean Cooking

Live Webinar **September 20, 2021**
 8:30-10:00am ET | 12:30-2:00pm GMT | 9:30-11:00pm Korea

Self-Paced Week 3

Session 4: Accelerating Access to MECS: Systems-level Priorities and the Role of Policy

Live Webinar **September 27, 2021**
 8:30-10:00am ET | 12:30-2:00pm GMT | 9:30-11:00pm Korea

Self-Paced Week 4

About the Event

Access to clean cooking solutions, including modern stoves and cooking fuels, is often overlooked as part of the wider energy access agenda. This is surprising, given that four billion people – over half the world’s population – lack access to modern energy cooking services, also known as MECS, for their daily cooking practices. This means that families around the world continue to rely on fuels like woodfuel or charcoal, as well as rudimentary stoves. This leads to devastating health, climate, environmental and gender impacts that cost the world an estimated 2.4 trillion dollars each year.

While the imperatives are clear, attention and focus on clean cooking have not been commensurate. To address this gap, the World Bank’s Open Learning Campus (OLC) and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) are partnering in a virtual Knowledge Exchange (KE) that builds on the recently launched, first-of-its-kind online course titled *The Hidden Side of Energy Access: Understanding Clean Cooking*. The KE is a month-long interactive webinar series that will feature speaker presentations from various clean cooking innovators and practitioners, discussion forums, and self-paced exercises across the four modules of the e-learning. The live sessions will also be recorded and made available through the OLC platform for later access.

Objectives

- Introduce the clean cooking sector, providing a nuanced overview of the state of access to modern energy cooking services.
- Highlight and define key concepts that are covered in the course, including clean cooking, modern energy cooking services (MECS), the Multi-Tier Framework (MTF), the least-cost best-fit approach, and results-based financing (RBF).
- Elaborate on the demand- and supply-side challenges and opportunities in the clean cooking sector, including affordability and access to financing.
- Uncover key market-based solutions and the role of the public sector in accelerating access to clean cooking.
- Describe key recommendations for national and local governments, donors, development partners, entrepreneurs, and private investors.
- Engage with colleagues and sector specialists in an interactive way to learn from different perspectives, share experiences and best practices, and discuss ongoing debates in the sector.

Audience

- Staff working on energy, health, environment, climate, and gender aspects across the World Bank Group who are interested in growing their understanding of clean cooking and modern energy cooking services.
- Client government agencies and project units working on energy, health, environment, climate, and gender aspects who are seeking to learn more about clean cooking and the wider energy access agenda.
- Other stakeholders, including individuals working in research and academia, potential investors, entrepreneurs, and development partners working on clean cooking or related sectors.
- University or master’s level students studying global development, energy, environmental policy, public health, or related fields.

Partners