



With national standards comes a better quality product. Early adopters are more likely to recommend a higher quality product to their friends and family.

THE MODEL

Hivos is partnering with the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) to facilitate and support the development of technical standards for domestic and commercial biogas plants. The standards will build the groundwork for the regulation of biogas production, conditioning, and utilization, taking into consideration safety, environmental concerns, performance, and functionality. These standards will act as a policy instrument to streamline and formalise the biogas sector in Kenya, thus facilitating the creation of an ideal environment for biogas technology to take hold across the country.

Hivos will continue to push forward the profile of biogas technology to further the development of the private sector landscape and cultivate a thriving business and entrepreneurial environment surrounding renewable energy in Kenya.

These standards will help the end consumer while also making the sector economically feasible for those looking to start biogas enterprises.

As more people in Kenya gain access to modern, consistent energy services, quality of life in the country improves. Hivos and KEBS see expanding access to biogas technology as integral to that process. Hivos and its partners want to demonstrate that renewable energy is not a pipe dream or an alternative, but simply the best choice for everyone.

CONSUMER TRUST

In the absence of biogas standards and guidelines, consumer satisfaction and interest in adopting biogas technology is lagging. Low quality biogas plant accessories and poor installations have led to decreased consumer satisfaction and skepticism about biogas and renewables in general. Developing these standards provides consumers with protection in

regards to health, safety, and reliability issues; thereby increasing consumer confidence in biogas technology. Once in place, the standards will provide the basis of regulations from the Energy Regulatory Commission that address the handling of consumer complaints, certification of biogas contractors and technicians, and quality control.



Standardizing biogas in Kenya will help pave the way for a more stable business environment in the sector.

THE IMPACT

Kenya currently has no renewable energy policy in place. Hivos hopes that developing standards will legitimise the sector and make an official renewable energy policy more plausible.

The benefits of national standards are clear. For instance, standards and regulation make it possible to sell energy produced from sustainable sources back to the utility grid. Once regulations are in place, those utilizing biogas can earn income from the energy they create.

Developing standards for renewable energy systems has the potential to change the public face of energy in Kenya. Traditional forms of energy have been the norm for so long that some consumers do not consider sustainable options when making their energy choices.

Regulation and standards also will allow KEBS to collect data and information that the government can then use when developing policies. Current changes to energy standards, regulations, and policies are laying the foundation for a future in which the citizens, institutions, and government of Kenya will look towards renewable energy first. Renewable energy is important in so many ways, from improving energy access and reducing energy costs in developing communities to mitigating climate change.



“Comprehensive knowledge of the policy environment, renewable energy technologies and users needs is absolutely vital for developing appropriate and applicable standards, regulations and policies.”

- Maimuna Kabatesi, an advocacy officer at Hivos in Kenya, in a recent interview. Maimuna truly believes in the power of legislative reform so that renewable energy can thrive.