

The UNEP SEF Alliance

Joining forces to advance public finance for clean energy

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

WHY JOIN THE SEF ALLIANCE?

Membership in the SEF Alliance means joining forces with visionary entities that are pushing the forefront of how to do public finance for sustainable energy. The Alliance is in fact the only convening body in the international system for public finance agencies in the clean energy space. Membership will enable your organisation to launch joint projects and improve cost-effectiveness by pooling resources across borders; build relationships and develop a common voice with international peers; access the latest knowledge and experience in the craft of public finance globally; and advance the lessons learned and best practices within this growing field. Membership means being associated with the remit and legitimacy of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) while benefiting from the institutional leverage that it actively brings to this group. It also means having a place on our Steering Committee to directly shape the scope and activities of the Alliance itself. In short, it means improving your effectiveness, leveraging your impact, and extending your reputation worldwide.

CURRENT MEMBERS



Canada



Chile

SITRA

Finland



Ireland



Mexico



UK

SPECIFIC MEMBER SERVICES AND OUTPUTS

Key benefits of membership include:

- Joint projects and decision-making with international peers and with UNEP;
- Access to an extensive international network of public finance agencies, experts, policymaking bodies, and other relevant professionals in both the public and private spheres;
- Leveraged funding from external sources for projects initiated by members;
- Annual specialised conferences for SEF Alliance members;
- Regular conference calls with leading international experts and high-level authorities in this field;
- Facilitated discussions with other members on possibilities for coordinated investment or other international collaborations;
- A global mapping of public finance entities with a user-friendly, sortable online interface;
- Online member facilities and active communication with the international group throughout the year;
- On-demand support from the Secretariat for individual member needs at any time.

Members govern the Alliance and its outputs directly. To date, they have jointly produced a variety of specialised studies that collect, advance, and communicate their expertise in the design and implementation of clean energy public finance programmes:



Overview of Public Finance Mechanisms



Impact Assessment Methodologies



Public Guarantee Structures



Public Venture Capital Study



Economic Impact Study

Areas of work that are currently planned or in development include:

- Cooperation with the private finance sector through the UNEP Finance Initiative;
- External fundraising for a “global partnership of national public finance agencies”;
- Best practices for achieving the maximum leverage of private investment relative to public funds invested;
- Common principles in public finance for clean energy technology innovation;
- Second phase work on how to measure the impact of public finance programmes.

Future project ideas under consideration include, but are not limited to:

- Public finance advisory services;
- Regional working groups and collaborative projects with UNEP;
- Fund structures linking innovation, finance and IPR strategies;
- Online public finance capacity building tools;
- Education and awareness of the economic benefits of public finance;
- Technology-specific finance challenges;
- International expertise growth and investment forums.

MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENTS

Member assessments for each year are decided by the members at the annual meeting of the preceding year. Assessments are weighted according to national economic development status and the size of a member’s organisational budget for sustainable energy (SE) programmes. Assessments for 2010 are as follows:

| Tier | Economic status | Annual SE budget | Assessment |
|------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | OECD | €200 million or more | € 50K |
| 2 | OECD | Between €50 and €200 million | € 40K |
| 3 | OECD | Less than €50 million | € 30K |
| 4 | Non-OECD | NA | € 10K |

IS MEMBERSHIP LEGALLY BINDING?

No. The SEF Alliance is governed by a UNEP Constitution; it states that, to be a member in good standing, an organisation must be approved for membership by the Steering Committee and must be current in paying its annual assessment. Nothing is signed by the members and all are free to abstain from renewing membership for subsequent years if their interests are not met in any given year. The Secretariat is bound by the Constitution to use the funding from membership assessments as directed by the members.

HOW TO JOIN

To process your membership, we first need a clear signal from your organisation that you wish to join. We will then ask the Steering Committee for approval. If its decision is positive, your organisation’s membership will be secured as soon as its assessment is processed for the current year.

For other questions, please contact the Secretariat:

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