

**Eradicating Poverty through Energy Innovation**  
*Harnessing Sustainable Energy Transitions for Human Thriving*

**Arizona State University**

**February 12-14, 2018**

Arizona State University invites participation in a workshop to imagine and develop new approaches to energy innovation that simultaneously address the UN Sustainable Development Goals of ending global poverty and providing sustainable energy for all people.

The International Energy Agency estimates that societies worldwide will invest \$40 trillion in a sustainable energy transition over the next few decades. The goal of **Eradicating Poverty through Energy Innovation** is to explore how these investments can be used not only to achieve carbon neutrality but also to advance human thriving.

The ties between energy and poverty run deep around the globe. Billions worldwide lack access to affordable, sustainable electricity to power households, businesses, and community services. Many more face routine energy payments that drain scarce financial resources. Still more bear burdens and risks of pollution, violence, corruption, and oppression associated with energy development, processing, distribution, infrastructure, and markets that constrain their opportunities for economic development and well-being.

In this workshop, we seek to engage and build a community of researchers, leaders, activists, and innovators involved in building strategies, advancing policies, and designing projects for community energy innovation that address the above challenges. We will explore and advance new models and frameworks for energy innovation that reduce poverty and end the relationship between energy systems and human suffering. We will discuss opportunities for collaborative initiatives and planning for future activities.

We encourage participation from those whose work addresses the following questions or other related work:

- Social value: how can energy innovation improve value creation in diverse communities?
- Energy thriving: what does it mean to thrive and how can energy innovation contribute?
- Financing energy and development in communities: what works, to what ends?
- What kinds of ownership models for energy innovation encourage community development?
- Local partnerships and cooperative structures for energy projects: what works and why?
- Regulatory, policy, and legal challenges: what limits community entrepreneurship in the clean energy sector, and how can those limits be lifted?

**Request for submissions:**

Please submit a 300-word abstract of your proposed contribution to the workshop, as well as your name, affiliation, email address, and phone number to **energyforthriving@gmail.com**, by **Nov. 15, 2017**. We will provide acceptance of notification by December 15, 2017.

We invite submissions from a broad range of perspectives and innovative views on the field of energy poverty: researchers, practitioners, community leaders, NGOs, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, students, and grassroots organizations; that discuss everything from research to policy to work in communities.

Format includes but is not limited to: research papers, presentations of innovative energy projects, exhibits, posters, panels, hands-on activities, and workshops. The workshop has limited funds to help cover travel expenses for participants. We encourage participants to look for alternative sources travel funding.

**ASU Sponsors:** School for the Future of Innovation in Society; Quantum Energy and Sustainable Solar Technologies (QESST) Engineering Research Center; Center for Energy and Society; Center for Global Development and Innovation; LightWorks; Global Institute of Sustainability