In collaboration with Accenture

Principles for Responsible Deployment of Renewable Energy Infrastructure

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This is a living document. The principles will evolve as the initiative grows and adapts to new insights, priorities, challenges and regional contexts.

Renewable energy capacity must triple by 2030 to meet energy and climate goals. Achieving this scale at the necessary pace presents both challenges and opportunities.

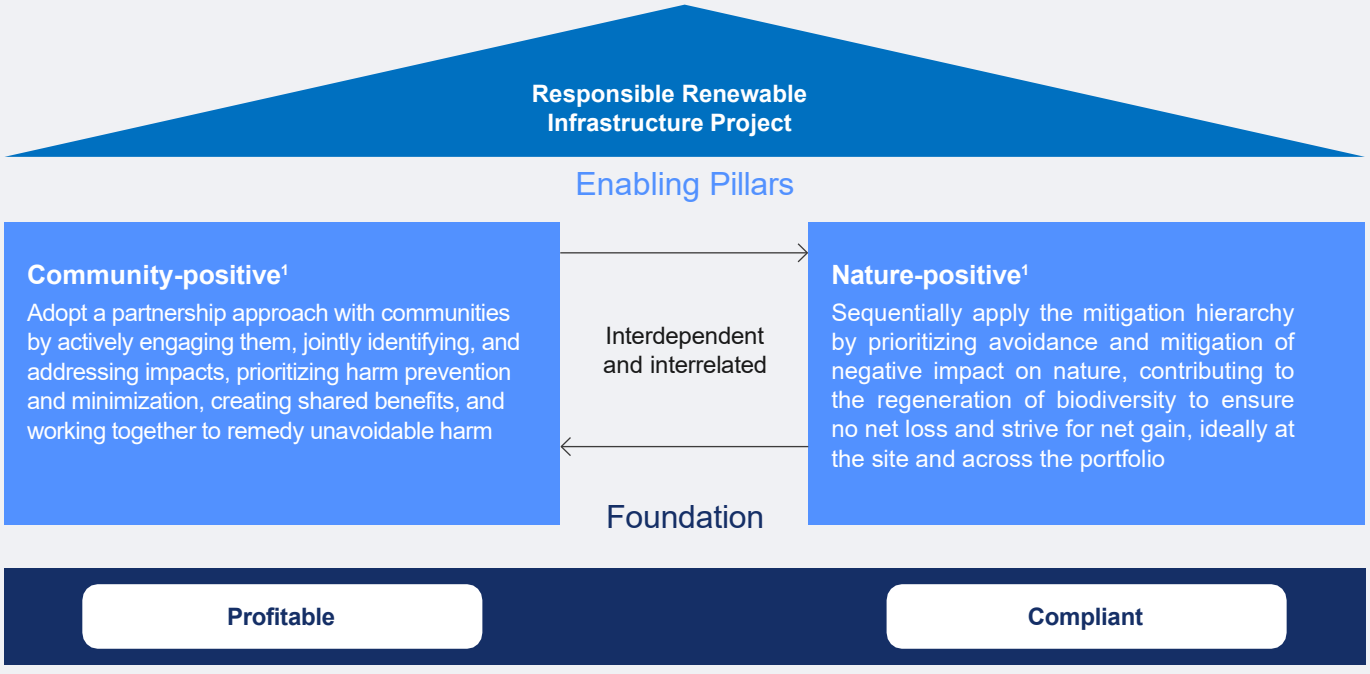
As renewable energy projects expand, they increasingly intersect with communities, biodiversity, and ecosystems. Without careful planning and inclusive engagement, these projects risk displacing communities, disrupting ecosystems, and undermining trust.

Yet, renewable energy infrastructure can do far more than generate clean electricity. It represents a transformative opportunity for the public and private sectors to work together to ensure that the energy transition brings benefits both to people and the planet. By deploying and operating new renewable energy infrastructure with broader sustainability and social equity goals in mind, we can foster community resilience, boost local economies, create jobs, and restore ecosystems. A nature-positive approach can go beyond minimizing harm to regenerate and enhance natural systems.

The Responsible Renewables Infrastructure Coalition recognizes the potential of renewable energy projects to serve as a force for positive change. To guide this, the coalition has developed the Principles of Responsible Deployment to underpin policy and business models. They provide a framework to integrate global best practices, address local priorities and build trust among stakeholders. By embedding these principles into policies and business models, the energy transition can mitigate risks, drive progress, and create benefits for businesses and communities alike, paving the way for an equitable and sustainable future.

Responsible Deployment: A Vision for 2030

A responsible project is one that contributes to both community-positive and nature-positive goals. These projects balance economic viability, social equity, and environmental sustainability, delivering measurable benefits for people and nature. Public-private collaboration among all stakeholders in the renewable energy infrastructure value chain – including developers, governments, investors, civil society, and communities – is key to establishing a benchmark for sustainable development that fosters trust and shared value.



Notes: (1) Definition of community-positive has been adapted from the Forum's white paper, Better Community Engagement for a Just Energy Transition: A C-Suite Guide (2) Definition of nature-positive has been adapted from the Forum's briefing paper, Clean Energy as a Catalyst for a Nature-Positive Transition

Principles for Responsible Deployment

These principles are designed to guide all stakeholders in the renewable energy value chain –developers, governments, investors, civil society, and communities – in working collectively towards responsible deployment that benefits both people and planet.

1. **Engage meaningfully, inclusively, transparently communities throughout the project lifecycle:** Foster transparent and inclusive communication with local communities, including Indigenous Peoples and minorities, from planning to decommissioning. Recognize and respect the social, cultural, economic, and recreational contexts of the region. Tailor engagement strategies to address community needs, aspirations, and concerns, ensuring shared benefits. Strive for realistic and effective co-ownership or participatory models where feasible, while respecting human rights, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) when engaging with indigenous groups.

2. **Support the creation of sustainable, equitable, and resilient local economies:** Create shared value by prioritizing local job creation, workforce upskilling and reskilling and entrepreneurship opportunities. Align economic benefits with existing community development goals to ensure long-term prosperity. Develop inclusive and equitable strategies that build economic resilience, focusing on initiatives that matter most to the community.

3. **Ensure no net loss and strive for net gain in biodiversity and positive impact on natural ecosystems:** Prioritize biodiversity conservation by avoiding disruption to critical habitats and ecosystems. Aim for measurable “net gain” outcomes where feasible, while adopting a phased approach that sets ambitious but practical goals. Incorporate nature-positive strategies, including habitat restoration and co-use benefits, to enhance ecological functions and support both local and migratory species. Broaden the focus to include cultural and environmental heritage, ensuring a holistic approach to sustainability.

4. **Catalyse multistakeholder collaboration to drive systemic change:** Foster alignment among governments, developers, investors, communities, and civil society to create unified frameworks for action. Develop mechanisms for collective policy advocacy and address systemic barriers to responsible deployment. Integrate transparent reporting, comprehensive impact assessment, and accountability measures that go beyond compliance to achieve tangible social and environmental impacts. Regularly assess and improve strategies, leveraging lessons learned to ensure continuous progress.

5. **Mainstream responsible practices across the renewable energy value chain:** Proactively embed responsible approaches in all phases of renewable energy projects, from planning to decommissioning. Establish responsible practices as a standard by integrating them into business models, regulatory frameworks, and industry standards. Facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration across stakeholders to strengthen a culture of community-positive and nature-positive deployment, contributing to global goals and ensuring lasting benefits for people, businesses, and ecosystems.

By embedding these principles and tailoring them to the needs of local contexts, renewable energy deployment can drive the global energy transition as a catalyst for systemic positive change. These projects have the potential to deliver more than clean energy – they can foster resilient communities, safeguard biodiversity, and uphold equitable social and environmental standards, while also enabling the financial sustainability of the projects. By prioritizing collaboration, transparency, and innovation, we can create renewable energy systems that generate shared value for people, business, and the planet. Together, this integrated approach can transform the energy transition into a model that fosters a sustainable and equitable future.