



Clean Cooking in Nepal: Partnering to Achieve Universal Access

Background

The Government of Nepal (GoN) is committed to achieving universal access to clean cooking by 2030. To achieve this goal, the GoN has set ambitious targets, including ensuring that 25% of households nationwide adopt electric cooking by 2030.

Since 2018, the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) has worked closely with the GoN, providing tailored support to help them achieve their ambitious clean cooking access goals. CCA's work in Nepal also integrates with the organization's [Clean Cooking Systems Strategy](#) (CCSS)¹ and its priority objectives and initiatives, especially the [Delivery Units Network](#) (DUN)².

Development of the Country Action Plan (CAP)

In 2021, in close collaboration with the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC),³ CCA launched the development of the Country Action Plan (CAP) for Transforming the Cookstoves and Fuels Market in Nepal. The CAP provides the GoN with a clear, strategic, and evidence-based roadmap with an actionable list of prioritized interventions to support Nepal's energy access goals, especially those related to the promotion of electric cooking.

CCA has worked extensively with the AEPC and subsequently with the National Planning Commission (NPC)⁴ to ensure that the CAP is (1) aligned with the GoN's goal and activities; (2) integrated into the national energy agenda; and (3) tailored to Nepal's context. Moreover, CCA presented the CAP draft to key stakeholders,⁵ including provincial and local governments, to gain feedback and buy-in. Once the AEPC board⁶ approves the CAP, the GoN will use it to help achieve its clean cooking goals.

CCA and AEPC developed the CAP based on a rigorous methodology, consultations with partners, key insights from CCA-commissioned foundational research, and various activities by partner organizations in Nepal. CCA-commissioned foundational research include the [Health Demonstration Project](#)⁷, landscape analysis of cookstove sector in Nepal, assessment on the readiness for widespread adoption of electric cooking in Nepal, and consumer assessment to support the adoption of electric cooking in Nepal.

Other CAP Aligned Activities

In 2023, CCA will collaborate with the NPC and AEPC to develop the Coordination Guideline, which local leaders requested during the provincial consultations conducted by NPC and CCA in 2022. The Coordination Guideline will define the mechanism for **effective coordination and cooperation** among key stakeholders (especially the three levels of the government - federal, provincial, and local) in the clean cooking sector and provide the framework for CAP implementation. In the new federal structure in Nepal, the local and provincial governments have the mandate to promote renewable energy, but ineffective coordination in promoting and implementing programs and projects has been a significant hindrance.

In partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI), Kartoza, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, AEPC, and Nepal Open University, CCA launched the [Clean Cooking Explorer](#) (CCE)⁸ in May 2022. The CCE integrates and supports the analysis of geospatial datasets to catalyze **evidence-based clean cooking**

planning. CCA is currently working to integrate the CCE Nepal with WRI's [Energy Access Explorer](#)⁹ and initiate a Nepal Energy Geographic Information System (GIS) Working Group. The GIS Working Group will be responsible for data maintenance and ensuring platform sustainability. The CCE will support CAP implementation by providing relevant data for decision-making around clean cooking programs. Through continuous capacity building, CCA will ensure the GoN can maintain and manage the CCE as part of the CAP.

From 2017 to 2019, CCA helped the GoN develop its current **national standard for electric cooking**, which applies to imported and locally manufactured induction stoves and hot plates. Stakeholders in Nepal identified a need to expand this electric cooking standard to cover infrared cooktops and electric pressure cookers, which have grown in popularity and represent an important opportunity to help Nepal meet its electric cooking goals. CCA is working closely with the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Meteorology, the Nepal Energy Foundation, and CLASP to develop a standard and implementation strategy for these additional technologies. Establishing national standards for electric cookstoves will support CAP implementation by ensuring that only high-quality electric cooking technologies are available in the market.

Moving Forward

CCA will coordinate its upcoming initiatives in Nepal with the GoN and other partners and utilize learnings from its previous and ongoing initiatives in Nepal, especially the CAP. The successful implementation of the CAP will aid the GoN in accelerating Nepal's large-scale transition to cleaner cooking solutions and achieve long-term environmental, climate, livelihood, and health impacts.

In 2023, CCA will implement a pilot project in Province 2, Nepal to demonstrate a market-based approach to promote a sustainable electric cookstoves (ECs) market. The pilot project will partner with the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to ensure reliable transmission and distribution infrastructure for the targeted area. Local governments will support awareness-raising activities and support household wiring upgrades. The project will work with market aggregators (MA) to build a viable supply chain for ECs and ensure after-sales services for the ECs. To make ECs financially accessible to households, microfinance institutions (MFIs) will offer interest-free loans. The pilot project will gather learnings to support the scaling-up of electric cooking across Nepal.

Additionally, CCA's future main area of focus in Nepal are to:

- Catalyze innovative finance by supporting the expansion of carbon credits for electric cooking
- Introduce embedded stove monitors for accurate monitoring, reporting, and verification to support carbon financing and support best business practices in the market
- Share learnings to attract investment and scale opportunities for increasing access to clean cooking in Nepal and the region

Notes

¹ <https://cleancooking.org/clean-cooking-systems-strategy/systems-strategy-framework/#:~:text=The%20Strategy%20aims%20to%20dismantle,and%20attention%20towards%20clean%20cooking>

² <https://cleancooking.org/reports-and-tools/clean-cooking-delivery-units-network-executive-summary/>

³The Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation (MoEWRI) is a federal agency in Nepal with the mission to make renewable energy a mainstream resource through increased access, knowledge, and adaptability. Promoting clean and efficient electric cooking solutions is one of the sectoral priorities of AEPC.

⁴The National Planning Commission (NPC) is the specialized and apex advisory body of the Government of Nepal for formulating a national vision and outlining policies, periodic plans, and sectoral policies for the nation's overall development. Plans, guidelines, and standards published by NPC support national budget planning at federal, provincial, and local government level. At the same time, NPC's approval is not required for planning at the provincial and local levels.

⁵The key stakeholders invited included the Nepal Electricity Authority, the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Meterology, donors, domestic and international nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and civil society agencies engaged in promoting clean cooking.

⁶The AEPC is governed by an independent Alternative Energy Promotion Development Board, with 11 members representatives from various organizations and is headed by the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation. AEPC is leading the formal process of presenting the CAP to the AEPC board. Once approved by the AEPC board, the CAP will be presented to the Ministry of Energy for finalization, which will formalize the CAP as a national plan.

⁷ <https://cleancooking.org/reports-and-tools/maximizing-the-health-benefits-of-clean-household-energy-in-peri-urban-nepal/>

⁸ <https://cleancookingexplorer.org/about-us/>

⁹ <https://www.energyaccessexplorer.org/>