UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE COP 31 | ANTALYA, TÜRKIYE | 9-20 NOVEMBER 2026

AXIS 1 SHOWCASE EVENT

The Age of Electricity | Transitioning Energy, Industry and Transport

Date: Tue 10 Nov | Time: 08:00 - 09:30 (60–90 min) | Room: Perge (Theatre), Blue Zone, Antalya EXPO Center

Organized by: WBCSD, supported by the Climate High-Level Champions Team and the UNFCCC GCA secretariat

Background and Objective

This event will showcase the specific actions that national and subnational governments, businesses and other non-government organisations are taking to shift policies, make the investments and create the conditions to accelerate electrification of energy use in industry, transport and buildings around the world. Electrification in the Clean Energy Transition is one of the COP31 Presidency priorities and a key component of Axis 1 delivery in the Global Climate Action Agenda.

We have entered the Age of Electricity. According to the IEA, Global electricity demand grew by more than 3% per year between 2015 and 2025 – twice as fast as overall energy demand – driven by rising demand for cooling, appliances, manufactured goods, digital services and artificial intelligence (AI), and by the rapid electrification of transport: electric vehicles (EVs) accounted for nearly 25% of new car sales in 2025, up from less than 1% in 2015. The effects of the conflict in the Middle East may further boost demand for electric technologies.

Electricity today accounts for around 23% of total final energy consumption, but its economic weight is far greater. Electric technologies are highly efficient at converting final energy into useful services such as mobility, lighting, heating and cooling – an EV is two to four times more efficient than an internal combustion engine vehicle – and electricity disproportionately powers high-value sectors such as advanced manufacturing, digital services and AI. As a result, electricity powers economic activities that account for nearly half of global GDP (IEA, 2026).

This central and growing role has major implications for economic competitiveness, energy security and climate mitigation, and places electricity at the heart of the Axis 1 goals: tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency, zero- and low-emission technologies in hard-to-abate sectors, universal energy access, and transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner. The Showcase Event will spotlight how companies, governments and partners are already transitioning energy, industry and transport through electrification and what is ready to scale.

Topline message

Electrification is the clearest opportunity governments have to cut energy costs, strengthen energy security and grow industry at the same time. Governments and businesses are taking action, but more is needed to grasp this opportunity.

Expected Outcomes

- Showcase proof of progress: concrete examples of companies and governments taking action to accelerate electrification of energy use in industry, transport and buildings demonstrating progress towards the Axis 1 goals and the COP31 Presidency's objective that electricity should meet 35% of final energy demand by 2035, up from around 21% today.

- Rally support for six priority policy actions to close the electrification gap, identified by business leaders through the Business Breakthrough Barometer delivered by WBCSD in partnership with the Marrakech Partnership: (1) reform grid connection queues and permitting; (2) remove distortions on electricity costs; (3) incentivize storage and flexibility; (4) build the infrastructure demand depends on; (5) bridge the electric premium to build the market; and (6) provide capital support to de-risk conversion.

Preliminary Agenda

Time	Segment
10 min :	**1. Opening: Welcome to the Age of Electricity** Setting the scene for the Age of Electricity – why electrification is now central to competitiveness, energy security and the Axis 1 goals, and how the COP31 ambition of electricity meeting 35% of final energy demand by 2035 can be delivered through mobilization on implementation gaps through the Action Agenda. - COP31 Presidency Representative (tbc) - **Dan Ioschpe**, Climate High-level Champion
15 mins	**2. Introducing the Electrification Package** Brief remarks from the lead organisations of Axis 1 introducing the electrification delivery package: - **Francesco La Camera**, Director General, IRENA (tbc) - **Jennie Dodson**, Senior Director, WBCSD
30 min	**3. Proofs of Progress and Accelerating Implementation: Grids and Access** Panel showcasing where electrification through individual and collective action through Action Agenda initiatives is already delivering results, such as expanding energy access in developing countries, increasing grid investments, improving energy security and reducing energy cost volatility. This panel will demonstrate the scale of the opportunity and conditions needed to realise that opportunity including reforming grid connections and permitting, removing distortions on electricity costs, incentivizing storage and flexibility. Panel moderated by **Anita Otubu** (Senior Director, Universal Energy, SEforALL): - **Lyssandro Siqueira**, State Secretary for Environment and Sustainable Development, Minas Gerais, Brazil. - **Anne Hidalgo,** Global Ambassador, GCoM. - **Rhian Kelly**, Chief Sustainability Office, SSE and UNEZA - **Rebecca Collyer**, Executive Director, Pooled fund for International Energy / ReNew2030, European Climate Foundation; Senior Advisor, Crux Alliance

30 min **4. Proof of Progress and Accelerating Implementation: Demand Side Shifts**

Panel looking at the challenges faced by business and governments that want to electrify quicker and what is being done to address them. Implementation stories about individual and collective progress through Action Agenda initiatives from a government, an industry group and a utility to address, that demonstrate that progress made and the conditions needed to accelerate the demand side shifts including: building the enabling infrastructure, bridging the electric premium and de-risking capital.

Panel moderated by **Dianne Holdorf** (Executive Vice President, WBCSD):

- **Julia Cruz**, Deputy Minister for Green Economy, Decarbonization and Bioindustry, Brazil.
- **Lily Riahi,** Head of Unit, Cooling, Buildings and Energy; Head, Cool Coalition Secretariat; Principal Advisor, Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Sectoral Transformation, Climate Change Division).
- COP32 Presidency Representative
- **Rana Ghoneim,** Director, Division of Energy and Climate Action, UNIDO.
- **Isaac Kiva,** Secretary for Renewable Energy, Kenya (tbc).
- **Andreas Follér**, Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO), Traton.

5 min **5. Closing: The Call to Action**

Key takeaways including the six priority actions that can accelerate electrification over the coming year turning the COP31 ambition of 35% electricity in final energy demand by 2035 into projects, policy shifts and investment.

- **John Kerry,** Attorney and Former United States Secretary of State, United States
- **Simon Stiell,** Executive Secretary (UNFCCC) (tbc)