BCSE Submission to Belém Mission to 1.5
July 10, 2026

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) welcomes the opportunity to provide its business input to the Belém Mission to 1.5 and COP presidencies of Türkiye, Australia, Brazil and Azerbaijan. We support the collaborative effort to enable ambition and accelerate implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs).

Established in 1992 in advance of the first Earth Summit, BCSE has been an accredited business observer to the United Nations for more than 30 years. BCSE is committed to working with governments, businesses, and stakeholders to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. BCSE represents a diverse and evolving portfolio of clean energy and decarbonization solutions that can put us on the trajectory to meet the 2030 energy transition goals and 2035 NDCs.

As the COP presidencies consider input on how to accelerate implementation, international cooperation and investment to achieve the Belém Mission to 1.5, we offer three recommendations:

1) Continue to elevate the COP 28 and Action Agenda goals for energy transition.

BCSE encourages the Belém Mission to 1.5 to stand on the foundational work of governments that articulated the COP 28 goals for the energy transition, including:

- double the global rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030;
- triple renewable energy capacity globally by 2030;
- increase global energy storage to 1.5 terawatt hours by 2030;
- accelerate methane emissions reductions;
- reduce road transport emissions;
- build net-zero emissions systems by mid-century; among others.

The Global Climate Action Agenda is also adding new goals to this foundation, including the Belém Pledge on Sustainable Fuels, to quadruple the production and use of sustainable fuels by 2035.

These global goals send important signals to the market. Together, we can build out pathways and partnerships to deliver results towards these realizing these goals. BCSE is committed to bringing forward the market experiences of companies that are building new infrastructure, deploying technology solutions, navigating finance and investment hurdles, and driving economic growth towards the achievement of these goals.

BCSE values the unique convening power of the COP, including that of the Global Climate Action Agenda. It brings together government officials, private sector executives, scientists, academics, community leaders, and more, to share ways we are working towards shared goals like the energy transition targets. It helps to break down silos, build up new relationships and broaden our networks. Most importantly, it elevates the contribution of each of these sector goals towards enhanced mitigation and resilience and provides a global spotlight. The spotlight is critical, as that attention and momentum can be carried forward towards implementation efforts in our home countries.

An example of how these international goals translates into local action, is captured in the commitment of 180 U.S. businesses and organizations to deploy demand-side solutions in the United States and to partner with foreign governments toward achieving the global goal to double the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030. BCSE delivered this letter to the COP 30 leadership in Belém.

2) Create opportunities for public-private partnerships, from the international to the local level, to emerge and take hold.

Each of the energy transition goals needs international cooperation to track progress. A structured space for governments, the private sector, and civil society to share strategies, examine opportunities and barriers, and learn from diverse national and local experiences could strengthen cooperation and help translate global goals into locally relevant partnerships and action. This space could be alongside the Subsidiary Bodies meetings in Bonn, at various climate weeks around the world and in the halls of the blue and green zones at COP.

These international opportunities should create space for sub-national public leaders to participate as well. Often the policy decisions that are most impactful to making progress and deploying infrastructure needed for the energy transition and for bolstering community resilience happen at the state and local level. This includes decisions on siting and permits, codes and standards, and allocation of public resources. Sharing of these local-level expertise and experiences will ignite forward progress, and keep the inter-governmental dialogue grounded in what is pragmatic and possible.

Here are two case studies that offer innovative and replicable experiences that could be utilized by other countries or communities to accelerate implementation, international cooperation and investment:

BCSE Case Study: Metrus' Energy-as-a-Service Financing Model

Highlights:

- Energy as a Service model provides third party financing for energy management and infrastructure modernization
- Replicable across public and private buildings and campuses
- Role for state governments to provide education to energy users and enabling policy
- 71% reduction in electricity consumption, eliminating 66k tons of annual CO2 emissions

Together with its Energy Service Contractor (ESCO) partner Centrica Business Solutions, Metrus is utilizing a Sustainable Energy as a Service program to finance over $74 million of projects at 56 sites across the United States for Amazon. Metrus financed and implemented a programmatic Sustainable Energy Services Agreement (SESA) that allows Amazon to blend the economics of different utility rates across regions to ensure that all sites are able to benefit from the efficiency upgrades.

BCSE Case Study: Powering Education With Energy-Efficient Lighting in Kenya

Highlights:

- A pilot program in Kenya retrofitted 100 boarding schools with energy-efficient LED lighting
- Data collected in pilot phase demonstrates benefits such as improved well-being and productivity, reduced energy consumption by 40–50%, and cost savings ranging from $100 to $200 per month
- With approximately 3,500 boarding schools and other public infrastructure in need of similar upgrades, Kenya is well-positioned to scale up energy efficiency projects

The Signify Foundation, UNEP-CCC, Sustainable Energy for All, the Kenya Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, and key collaborators have successfully concluded the pilot phase of the Powering Education project in 100 Kenyan schools, which seeks to develop and implement a model for transitioning schools to energy efficient lighting.

3) Encourage investment and shape policies to meet rising energy demand with a diverse portfolio of low- and zero-carbon energy.

Projections for global energy demand are on the rise, and that is especially true for electricity demand. To meet this growing demand, we will need a broad portfolio of sustainable electrons and molecules, as well as demand-side management solutions and strategies. We need to broaden energy access, and connect communities through distributed generation

A diversified portfolio of energy solutions also protects against external shocks from supply constraints, extreme weather events, and other unanticipated market variables. It provides multiple pathways for countries to address priorities that may overlap – from economic development to energy security, and from the onset of the age of artificial intelligence to the expansion of energy access.

The UNFCCC inter-governmental process has the ability to encourage research, investment, capacity building, and workforce development that leans not on one energy solution, but on a diversity of solutions.

Here are two additional case studies that offer models for addressing demand and increasing resilience:

BCSE Case Study: Customer-Side Battery Storage as Valuable Grid Assets

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)'s My Energy Optimizer Partner+ is an innovative battery storage and residential Virtual Power Plant (VPP) program that transforms residential batteries into smart, dispatchable resources. These can provide backup power to customers during outages and reduce customer bills and electric loads during peak hours when electricity prices are highest.

Highlights:

- More than 1,600 participating battery storage systems
- Upfront incentives up to $500/kWh and ongoing capacity payments of $44/kW-year
- Designed for myriad bulk and distribution use cases

SMUD provides financial incentives to customers to offset battery installation costs, spur contractor participation, and harness the ability of residential batteries to respond to grid needs during peak events. Uniquely among utility battery storage programs, participants in My Energy Optimizer Partner+ agree to allow SMUD operators to control their battery on a year-round basis, providing maximum value potential from these customer-sited resources.

BCSE Case Study: America's Largest Renewable Energy-Powered Transit Depot Ensures Reliability

Highlights:

- 100% operating capacity in the event of extreme weather events or power outages
- 4,000 MT reduction in scope 1 and 2 CO_2 emissions
- Delivered at no upfront cost through an Energy-as-a-Service agreement

Montgomery County, MD is transforming its Equipment Maintenance and Transit Operation Center into a self-sustaining bus depot to power a mixed fleet of 200+ buses with renewable energy. The project will incorporate green hydrogen production to support fuel cell electric buses and enhance the county's Bus Rapid Transit. A ready supply of sustainable, resilient, and cost-effective power for the new bus fleet network will ensure uninterrupted transit bus services under any power circumstances.

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Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and look forward to participating in the next phase of Belém Mission to 1.5. For more information, please contact Laura Tierney at the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (ltierney@bcse.org).