

Leading the energy transition

To combat the climate crisis the world is facing, we need to fundamentally change our energy system. The key to reduce CO₂ emissions and simultaneously meet the world's increasing energy demand lies with renewable energy. As wind and solar has become cost competitive with fossil fuels, a world powered solely by renewable energy is not only needed, it is possible.

The world is being digitalised and electrified creating vast opportunities to speed up the decarbonisation of the energy system. In Vestas we want to drive this urgently needed transition of the energy system by developing the solutions that can make a world powered by renewable energy a reality as soon as possible – and we want to do it in a sustainable way.

The enormous transition towards renewable energy will impact the lives of many and we want to make sure that the impact is positive. Our ambition is to deliver the solutions that can realise the needed change, while ensuring that the transition is built on a sustainable foundation.

Social license to operate

We have developed a unique framework to obtain a social license to operate from the local communities when we construct new wind projects in complex markets. We work closely together with our customers to develop a wind park that is financeable and sustainable with a strong engagement of local stakeholders. We identify and prioritise local development and engagement opportunities to ensure that the local communities experience concrete improvements in their daily lives when affected by our projects.

We do this to minimise the risk related to our projects and because we believe it is the responsibility of an industry leader to ensure a positive impact towards the communities you operate in and rely on.

One of our highlights in 2018 has been the award-winning project Taiba N'Diaye in Senegal. We are proud to be entering this new market with Lekela to deliver this first utility-scale wind power project in Senegal. This project will expand the country's generation capacity by 15 percent, supporting the development of affordable renewable energy, and diversifying Senegal's energy mix, as well as providing social and economic opportunities for the local communities. In our partnership with Lekela, Vestas will be participating in an extensive social investment programme focused on continuing engagement, creating local job opportunities, and providing vocational training opportunities for youth.



We believe that obtaining and maintaining a social license to operate when developing renewable energy projects should be the basic standard for the entire industry. Only by ensuring that the energy transition includes local communities, can we truly succeed in creating a sustainable world without fossil fuels.

All our sustainability activities are directly linked to our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Vestas' core business touches upon all 17 SDGs either directly or indirectly, however, we have identified six SDGs where we believe to have the greatest impacts: 7, 13, 8, 4, 12, 17. As a member of the UNGC since 2009, we continue to support the ten principles throughout our business and value chain. I invite you to read more in the pages that follow and on vestas.com.

