

The Friends' Network

THE NETWORK FOR ACTION

The Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFFsR) and the Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI) of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) would like to invite you to the Friends' Network, an initiative consisting on a series of virtual roundtables to discuss the practical and technical implications and implementation of fossil fuel subsidy reform across a variety of areas. The Friends' Network was officially launched at COP24 in December 2018 in Katowice.

Fossil fuel subsidies have direct economic, environmental, social and trade impacts, holding us back from a low carbon future and incentivizing a non-efficient consumption of energy. The reform of FFS is a key element to achieve the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, among others.

[Link: learn more about FFSR](#)

Why a series of virtual roundtables on FFSR

The objective of the roundtables is to create an international network of government officials and interested individuals (the "Friends' Network") to share breakthrough knowledge, experiences and encourage innovative thinking on topics related to FFS and their reform.

The virtual roundtables engage participants in discussions about current topics related to fossil fuel subsidy reform. Each roundtable consists of at least one presentation by an expert followed by a forum for questions and discussion. Participants are invited to ask questions and share their views and experiences within this forum.

Who should join

The roundtables are directed to government officials, advisors, regulators, policy makers and professionals involved in the process of subsidy reform around the world. Officials of the ministries of finance, energy and environment are particularly welcome. Professionals from Think Tanks, International Organizations, NGOs, academia, and others working on or interested in fossil fuel subsidies are also very welcome to join the conversation.

THE FFFSR

Set up in June 2010, the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform is an informal group of non-G20 countries aiming to build political consensus on the importance of fossil fuel subsidy reform. Current members of the Friends group are Costa Rica, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay.

The Friends work internationally within forums such as the G20, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Sustainable Development Agenda to promote the benefits of reform, and to provide information and tools to facilitate reform. The Friends recognize that there are political, social and economic challenges to face when removing fossil fuel subsidies, and that reform takes time. The Friends also recognize the importance of taking into account vulnerable groups and their developmental needs. Subsidy reform must be carefully designed.

The Friends have a proven track record of organizing timely seminars to promote reform and to share country experiences and best practices in implementing energy reform. Across these events, the Friends have involved high-level speakers from countries such as Angola, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Ukraine, as well from international organizations such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, APEC, OECD, International Energy Agency (IEA), International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI) of IISD and The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group.

[Link: learn more about the Friends of FFSR here](#)

Topics and schedule

The virtual roundtables cover most pressing topics related to fossil fuel subsidy reforms, and aim to be scheduled ahead of major international events to provide additional information and arguments to support relevant negotiations.

A detailed list of past webinars and materials shared in those is available in the website of the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (ffsr.org/webinars).