

Kenya: Draft Policy on Renewable Energy out in Two Months

A draft policy document on renewable energy will be ready in the next two months. Mr. Patrick Nyoike, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy, said the document was geared towards boosting sustainable energy, in line with recommendations by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership. Among renewable energy sources that the government was keen on promoting are solar water heaters. At the same time, the ministry's acting superintendent of power, Mr. John Githinji, and the new acting director of renewables, Mr. J. N. Maina, wants solar heaters made affordable to more people. At present, there are about 50,000 solar units countrywide. The PS was speaking at the close

of a regional conference on renewable energy at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi. The two-day conference was organized by the African Energy Policy Research Network and sponsored by Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, a UK-based initiative launched at last year's World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa. It brought together delegates from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mauritius. Participants included Uganda's Energy Permanent Secretary, Mr. F. A. Kabagambe-Kaliisa. Mr. Nyoike said the government was aggressively pursuing increasing the share of renewables in electricity supply particularly geothermal energy.

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