

## Message from the World Energy Council: A pivotal moment for humanity

Our shared vision of humanising energy transition was formed to remind us of the importance of energy in the lives of us all, and how together we can manage energy transition. As the COVID-19 pandemic reaches most corners of the world, pulling together as a community of deep expertise has never been more important - to share experiences and lessons learned, and better prepare for and shape what comes next. Our role as a credible, responsible and impartial value-adding “global voice” for whole energy system movement has never been more critical.

The World Energy Council has launched and continues to maintain agile surveys of our impartial global network of energy leaders, industries, governments, innovators and experts from nearly 100 countries around the world. **Stay tuned for the release of results of the second round of our global surveys on June 8th!** [FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Secretary General perspective: Re-investing in Resilience

Many energy businesses see the temporary closure of their facilities and offices as a challenge – approximately 25% of our global survey respondents have indicated. But the majority of energy entities are maintaining essential system operations and keeping the lights on as they continue to strive towards greater provision of clean, affordable and reliable energy for the billions of people who lack basic and/or quality energy access. [Read full blog post by Secretary General, Dr Angela Wilkinson](#)



## Race to Zero: What more can companies do? A guest perspective by Nigel Topping, COP26 High Level Climate Action Champion



We are in a race to zero. Momentum is building in the transition to a net zero-carbon emissions economy. This includes a transformation of global energy system. More and more energy companies are committing to end their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions – including household names like BP, Shell, Enel, Iberdrola and EDF. And those that have not done so yet are increasingly considering such a commitment. [Read more](#)

## The World Energy Council Welcomes a New Cohort of Future Energy Leaders for 2020

Congratulations are extended to the 41 new global Future Energy Leaders programme (FEL-100) who have made it through another year of intense global competition for limited places. The global FEL-100 programme continues to attract exceptional young professionals from all sectors and regions with a shared interest in continued development as responsible globally-minded energy leaders. We look forward to hearing more about how they will contribute to the Council’s enduring mission and compelling vision. [Read more](#)



### Global Expert Viewpoint: Will Covid-19 destroy or build trust and ambition?



In less than six months Covid-19 has dramatically changed the present. But how will this pandemic change the future? We may not have the answer, but we can create plausible scenarios for what lies ahead and identify the relevant signals of change. How pernicious is the pandemic? Will it be solved with primarily a technology fix or require sustained behavioural change? How quickly will the global economy recover? And what are the implications for energy? [Read the full article](#) by Ged Davis, Executive Chair, Scenarios, World Energy Council

### Pandemic Drives Human Connections, with Lasting Energy Impacts

As we increasingly come together through technology, how will the innovations that make virtual human connections possibly impact our energy system and the environment? The energy system is an extension of the society it supports. Technology-enabled social interactions require a vast amount of energy. A two-way video webcast consumes many times more energy than a phone call – but the resulting increase in social value is even more significant. [Read full article](#) by Dr Michael Howard, CEO at EPRI and Vice Chair, Special Responsibility for Innovation



### The crisis will accelerate the pace of transition



“ I believe this crisis will accelerate the pace of energy transition around the world. In the coming years we will see investments in oil and gas being very tight due to the recent price crash, whereas I believe investments in cleaner technologies will continue to grow and these technologies will become more cost-effective. Renewable energies, in countries like mine, will allow us to have a more resilient energy system, capable of withstanding shocks and providing reliable, affordable and cleaner energy to all. **Interview with José Antonio Vargas Lleras, Colombia**” [Read the full interview here](#)

### Peak-Covid impacts are still to come

Covid-19 will continue to drive impact for at least another quarter. Sharp declines of energy demand and oil and gas prices are having considerable impact on the energy industry, financial market, global economy and society.

Energy demand forecasts by the Institute of Energy Economics Japan shows 2020 oil demand will be 9.3 million bbl/d – a 9.3% decrease from 2019. Natural gas demand will be 3682 billion m<sup>3</sup> – a 7.2% decrease from 2019. [Read the full article](#) by Mr Shigeru Muraki, Executive Adviser for Tokyo Gas Co Ltd and World Energy Council Vice Chair for Asia Pacific/South Asia



**General limitations on capital might hinder higher ambitions**



In your opinion, could Covid-19 be a pivot point for accelerating energy transition? “It is not impossible – pressure on conventionals has risen significantly; investments into conventionals might be further challenged; thus, an acceleration is possible through capital and financial markets. However, general limitations in capital might hinder significant reorientation.” [Read full interview with Dr.-Ing. Leo Birnbaum, Chief Operating Officer, Integration and Member of the Board of Management of E.ON SE, as well as Chair of the World Energy Council Studies Committee.](#)

**Spillover effects**

What are the main positive spill-over effects of Covid -19 in your country/region, if any?

“The Covid crisis has forced us to rethink how we see and plan for the long term and to consider reindustrialisation when it comes to certain goods and strategic activities, including energy.” [Read the full interview with Alexandre Perra, Executive Director of Innovation, Strategy and Corporate Responsibility of EDF Group and the World Energy Council's Vice Chair for Europe.](#)



**Societal resilience is the key**



What are the societal implications of Covid-19? As we can see, this epidemic has already impacted society. Behaviour and habits will be completely different. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina will depend on the ability of the population to adapt to changes that will occur after the end of an emergency. [Read the full interview with Dr Admir Softic, Assistant Minister, Sector of Energy at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

**Join First Online Conference in New ‘Road to Congress 2022’ Series**

An online conference entitled 'COVID-19: Accelerating a Better Energy Future for All' is set to take place on 17 June 2020. It will be the first in a series of online events themed around 'Road to Congress 2022' to be held twice a year under the brand of the 25th World Energy Congress, which will take place in St. Petersburg on 24-27 October 2022.

The conference is being jointly organised by the World Energy Council and Roscongress Foundation, and is being held with the support of the Global Energy Association. [Read more](#)



## Update

### Contribute to the development of post Covid-crisis scenarios

Member Committees are warmly encouraged to contribute to the development of the set of short-term post Covid-crisis scenarios. For more information or support, or to share your suggestions and ideas please contact [insights@worldenergy.org](mailto:insights@worldenergy.org)

### Digital Launch Event – 16 June 2020

#### New Insights Brief in collaboration with PwC

*Performing while transforming: The role of transmission companies in the energy transition* - 16th June 2020 from 01:00pm to 02:00pm BST [REGISTER HERE](#)

### First Online Conference in New ‘Road to Congress 2022’ Series – 17 June 2020

### World Energy Week , October 2020

These are challenging times for our global energy community, testing the resilience of societies and impacting the entire energy systems on which we all depend. The theme for **World Energy Week 2020** is Connecting Energy Societies. Our plan is to do just that, so please do continue to hold the dates in your diaries. Please keep an eye on the Council's [website](#) for further details. We look forward to connecting with you in **October**.

**World Energy Inside is the exclusive news briefing for the Council's global network.**

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