

Press release

11 October 2019

Siemens Gamesa CEO calls on students to choose science to halt climate change as new report highlights social benefits of wind energy

- Call to action to society comes at launch of new wind energy report highlighting significant social, health and economic benefits of accelerated drive to renewable energy
- Markus Tacke identifies students' lack of interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as a potential obstacle to fighting climate change in the near future

Accelerating the uptake of wind energy would slash pollution, save lives and preserve vital water resources, according to a new report from KPMG commissioned by Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, a leading wind energy manufacturer.

The KPMG wind energy report — *The socioeconomic impacts of wind energy in the context of the energy transition* — highlighted significant gains for society through the delivery of clean energy. The report found that wind could increase its contribution to global electricity demand nine times by 2040 (to 34%, from 4% at present). Moreover, it could account for 23% of the necessary reduction in carbon emissions by 2050: 5.6 billion tons of CO₂, equivalent to the annual emissions of the 80 most polluting cities. This reduction would have real benefits for society, saving up to four million lives a year and reducing health-related costs by up to 3.2 trillion dollars a year.

In response, Markus Tacke, CEO of Siemens Gamesa, called on students across the world to opt for studies in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and careers in renewable energy so as to play their part in halting climate change.

Students have transformed the climate change debate in 2019, bringing new urgency and energy to the growing crisis. Data supports this concern, as 60% of wildlife has been lost in just over 40 years.

Tacke, speaking at the launch of the report, acknowledged the impact that young people have had on the issue and made an unwavering commitment to bringing clean energy to society as part of the effort to tackle the crisis.

The CEO issued a call to action to young people, highlighting concerns that a serious shortfall of students pursuing STEM careers could leave the industry short of the talent it needs to drive change. “You can do something. You can choose to be the one that will make change happen. Choose STEM,” he said. “Choose a career that will turn your curiosity and passion for change into solutions. Solutions that we need now, and which we will need even more tomorrow.”

Tacke also highlighted the role that regulators, governments and companies have in driving energy transformation.

“We all come here today from different areas: representatives of the industry, analysts, political institutions. But we all have the same concern: how to use the knowledge and the instruments we have right now to start addressing climate change, because there is real urgency,” he said. “Financial incentives and clear policies are still lacking. The barriers to a full-scale transition to renewable energy lie not just with technology costs, but also with long term strategies and investments to make those ambitious plans reality,” he added.

The new report also identified other key gains from the energy transformation. Water scarcity is becoming a major problem, affecting 40% of the world's population. The report highlights that wind could save 16 billion m³ of water by 2030 (equivalent to around 15% of the water in the Dead Sea).

Other conclusions from the report are that renewables could also be key to improving wellbeing in less developed countries. Around the world, one billion people still do not have access to electricity and 2.7 billion have no access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking. With an ambitious energy transition, universal access to both electricity and clean cooking would be achieved within a decade.

Read the full report here

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About Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy

Siemens Gamesa is a global leader in the wind power industry, with a strong presence in all facets of the business: offshore, onshore and services. The company's advanced digital capabilities enable it to offer one of the broadest product portfolios in the sector as well as industry-leading service solutions, helping to make clean energy more affordable and reliable. With more than 95 GW installed worldwide, Siemens Gamesa manufactures, installs and maintains wind turbines, both onshore and offshore. The company's orders backlog stands at €25.1 billion. The company is headquartered in Spain and listed on the Spanish stock exchange (trading on the Ibex-35 index).

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