



# The READ Project

Ed Brown (Loughborough University and LCEDN)

USES Workshop, Merica Hotel, Nakuru, Kenya,  
7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017

# The READ Project

*Renewable Energy and Decentralization (Energy Literacy for Decentralized Governance)*

Short project which ran until October 2015 – but has carried on in various forms

## Project Partners

- Practical Action East Africa
- GAMOS Ltd
- Loughborough University

## Funders

- UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
- UK Department for International Development
- UK Department for Energy and Climate Change
- Understanding Sustainable Energy Solutions Research Programme (2013-2018) – 13 projects



Gamos

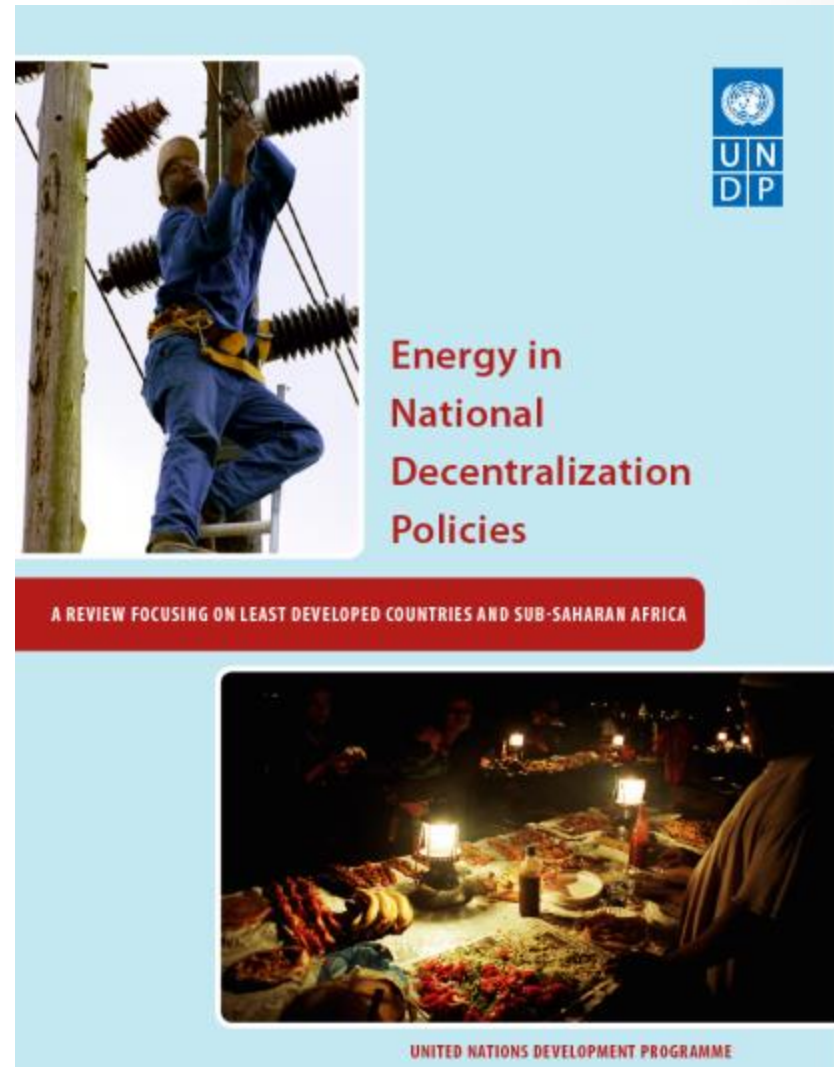


# Project Aims

- To assess the roles and responsibilities of ***African local authorities*** in relation to energy issues.
- To examine how the ***roles and responsibilities*** of local authorities in relation to energy issues have already been ***affected by the transfer of powers and budgets under decentralization*** initiatives.
- Underlying all of this is the question of what kind of capacity local authorities need in order to play the ***potentially crucial role of integrating clean energy transitions into local development planning*** and how those capacities are being enhanced
- Two specific country case studies: ***Rwanda*** and ***Kenya***

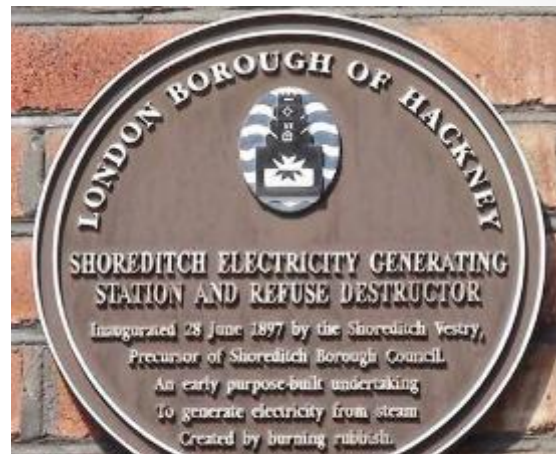
# Decentralization and Energy

- A 2009 UNDP Study is the only significant study connecting the two areas.
- This ***explored decentralization policy in over 60 countries*** and found explicit mention of energy issues in only 4 cases.
- But local governance of energy is clearly important and ***local authorities clearly do have important roles in relation to energy*** across the globe.



# 1. A Direct Role in Electricity Generation/Supply?

- Local government played a major role in the development of the electricity infrastructure in many Northern countries.
- Beginnings of a shift back in this direction in Europe.
- Local government has played a significant role in some Southern countries too
- Several examples of electrification schemes (grid + off-grid) where local authorities have played a major role.
- E.g. State-level responsibility for implementing national electrification policy in South Africa - linked to integrated regional development plans.



South African Electrification Programme



## Summary

In South Africa access to electricity increased from 35% of households in 1990 to 84% in 2011 (StatsSa 2012). The political context for this dramatic increase was the transition from the racially dominated apartheid government to a democratically elected government in 1994. These changes took place in three phases. From the late 1980s to 1994, there were initial scattered efforts and preparations. In the second phase from 1994 to 2000, new policies were drafted and institutional reforms were carried out in the electricity sector. Electrification levels increase from about 35% to 75%. In the third phase from 2000 to present, institutions return to function normally and policymaking and

# 1. A Direct Role in Electricity Generation/Supply?

- In the Global South most successful local government experiences in electrification involve a facilitation role (rather than direct provision).....
- Success seems to depend upon:
  - Sufficient local/regional control of budgets;
  - Capacity Building for local institutions;
  - Multi-level collaborations with clearly defined roles.....

URBAN  
ENERGY  
SUPPORT

SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
to meet sustainable energy  
and climate change challenges.



## Micro-Hydro Village Electrification in Nepal



## 2. Individual Initiative

- Some individual local governments are taking a leadership role in promoting transformative action on decentralised energy.
- Importance of Individuals
- E.g. waste to energy projects or schemes linked to other local authority services (health, education etc.)

News Society Fuel poverty

### Councils generate own power to take on the big six energy firms

Prompted by fuel poverty, local authorities in Britain and Ireland are generating their own cheaper power



Peter Hetherington

The Guardian, Wednesday 4 December 2013

[Jump to comments \(32\)](#)

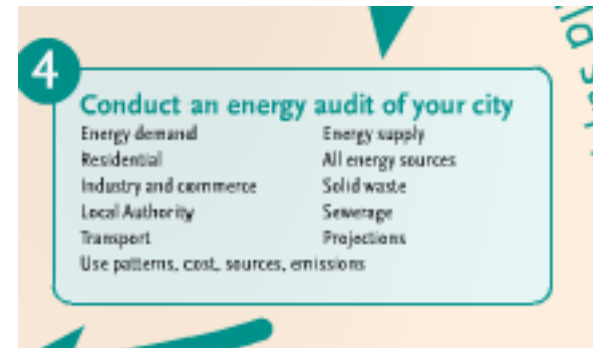


Thamesway's electricity generating plant powers part of Milton Keynes. The company is owned by Woking borough council and predicts an expansion of local energy schemes. Photograph: Thamesway



### 3. Other Important Roles for Local Authorities

- Not all local authorities have the capacity (or the resources) to develop their own generation projects.
- But there are plenty of other things they can do.
- **Audit** of energy provision and energy needs
- **Social Consultation:**
  - ascertaining energy needs of communities and local businesses
  - How they rank those needs against other necessities and desires (e.g. Central African Republic/Nicaragua)



- Ensuring energy initiatives are connected adequately into **local and regional development strategies**.
- Provision of **information and training** about energy issues and capacity building.
- A **‘demonstrator role’** in promoting new technologies or approaches in the delivery of services to local citizens
- E.g. the use of clean energy technologies in powering municipal buildings.

# Other Important Roles for Local Authorities

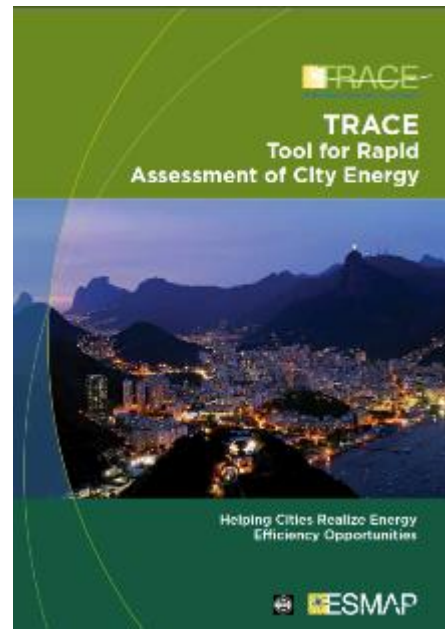


Climate & Development  
Knowledge Network

**INSIDE STORIES**  
on climate  
compatible  
development

June 2012

South Africa's Municipal Integrated  
Development Plans



**SAMSET**  
Supporting Sub-Saharan Africa's Municipalities  
with Sustainable Energy Transitions



*Energising The Millennium Development Goals*

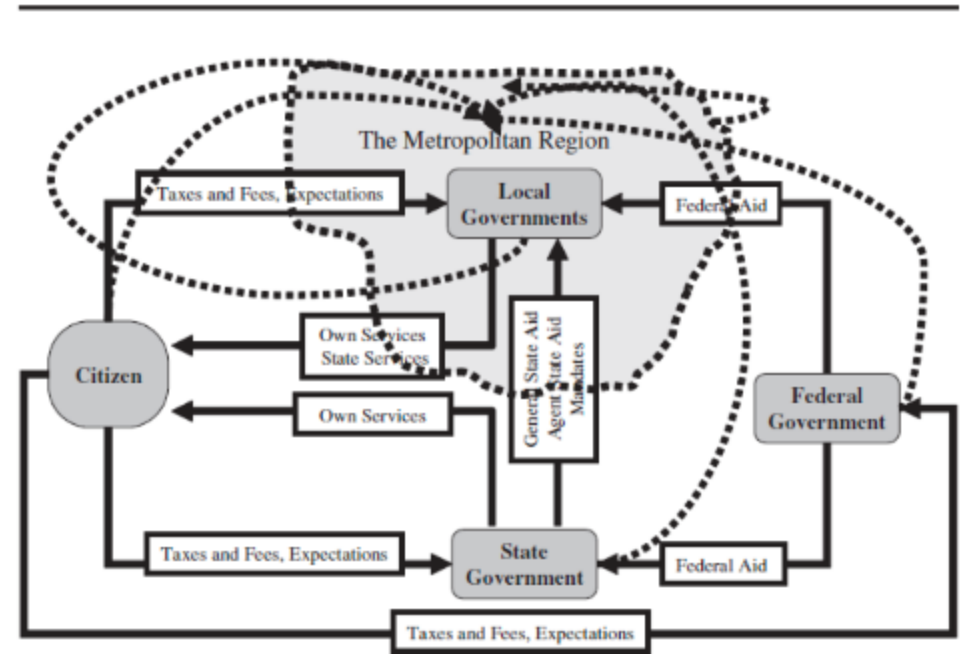
# Purported Advantages of Political Decentralization for Energy Access/Low Carbon Transitions

- **Coordination** of energy services with **other service provision infrastructures** (health, education, economic development, agricultural extension services).
- **Coordination** of the wide variety of actors involved in the energy sector and more effective targeting of national energy policy and provision of support services and networking opportunities.
- Political decentralization should encourage local people to play a more active role in **articulating local solutions** to the challenges which they face including energy (closer to where decision-making takes place) – assumes decentralization implies encouragement of consultation/participation



# Purported Advantages of Political Decentralization for Energy Access/Low Carbon Transitions

- So much depends upon national/local context of each situation – capacity, transparency, legitimacy, resourcing, legislative authority.
- The **inter-relationships** between different branches of territorial government and other actors (and between different scales of government) are crucial
- *“the sharing of power between numerous scales of governance must be seamlessly mangled, resulting in a “polycentricity” or “nestedness” that involves multiple authorities and overlapping jurisdictions”* (Sovacool, 2011:3833)



Source: Ed Araral and Kris Hartley (2015) Polycentric Governance for a new environmental regime  
[http://www.icpublicpolicy.org/IMG/pdf/panel\\_46\\_s1\\_araral\\_hartley.pdf](http://www.icpublicpolicy.org/IMG/pdf/panel_46_s1_araral_hartley.pdf)

# Project Outcomes

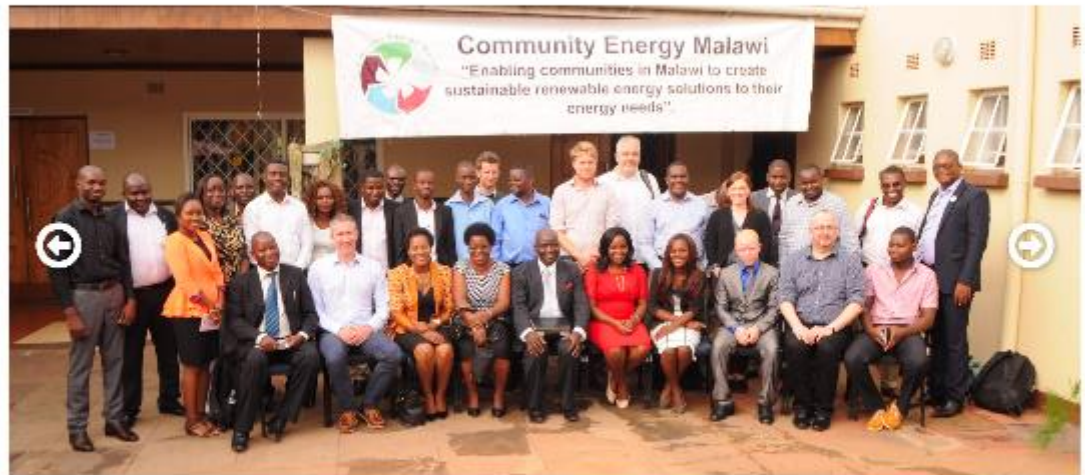
- Workshops and Interviews in Kenya and Rwanda
- Series of Working Papers
- Academic articles
- Youtube Videos
- Engagement and Impact activities

# 1. Malawi Follow-Up

- District Energy Planning
- Joint follow-up project between Gamos, Loughborough, Strathclyde, Mzuzu University and Community Energy Malawi)

COMMUNITY ENERGY, ENERGY, MALAWI, POLICY

## A Stakeholder Workshop: Blueprinting District-Level Energy Officers



Date: [March 15, 2017](#)

Author:  
[hannahcbuckland](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, Lilongwe, Malawi

The Government of Malawi is committed to implementation of District Energy Officers (DEOs) to be working in all 28 Malawi districts by 2020, however the roles and responsibilities are not defined. [The University of Strathclyde](#),

# 1. Malawi Follow-Up

- Blueprint adopted by Malawian government.
- LCEDN Placement with CEM developing the next stage of the project (Nigerian PhD from Amsterdam)

The paper presents practical recommendations that will assist the Government of Malawi in devolving decision-making around selection, funding, operation and management of sustainable energy solutions to district level through the use of DEOs. The support and accountability structures, outlined in the recommendations paper, will be used by the Government of Malawi to empower rural communities to take an active role in, and ownership of, district level energy initiatives aimed at improving electricity access. Key recommendations focus on enhancing electricity literacy across communities through effective networking and communication, leading to community sensitisation of sustainable energy technologies, system solutions and operating practices.

# 1. Kenya Follow-Up

- Connecting READ and SONG (linked to collaboration with Nottingham on Community energy governance)
- SCODE (SONG Partner) working with Nakuru County on County Energy Plan
- EPSRC PhD – Richard Sieff
- Engagement with SE4All Hub
- Looking for follow-up funding

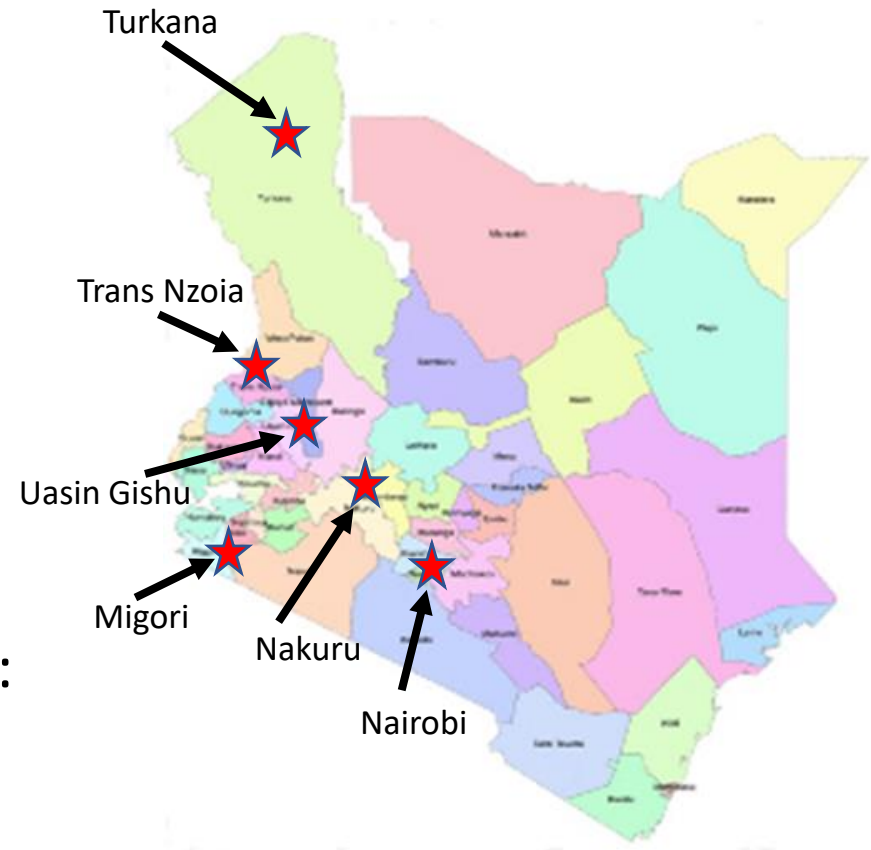


# **ESPRC PhD project building on the work of the READ project**

- **Aim: to investigate the role of local governance in addressing energy access issues within the context of political devolution in Kenya.**
- Richard Sieff ([r.sieff@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:r.sieff@lboro.ac.uk))
- Loughborough University
- Supervisors: Dr Ed Brown & Dr John Harrison
- Completion date: September 2018

# Research scope

- 6 counties visited: Migori, Nairobi, Nakuru, Trans Nzoia, Turkana, Uasin Gishu
- 60+ interviews with Energy stakeholders (National Government, County Government, Private Sector, Donors, NGOs, CSOs, and Research Institutes)
- 7 Community focus group discussions
- 13 County questionnaires received:  
Baringo, Busia, Garissa, Homa Bay, Kiambu, Kisumu, Kitui, Machakos, Marsabit, Nakuru, Nyamira, Siaya, Taita-Taveta



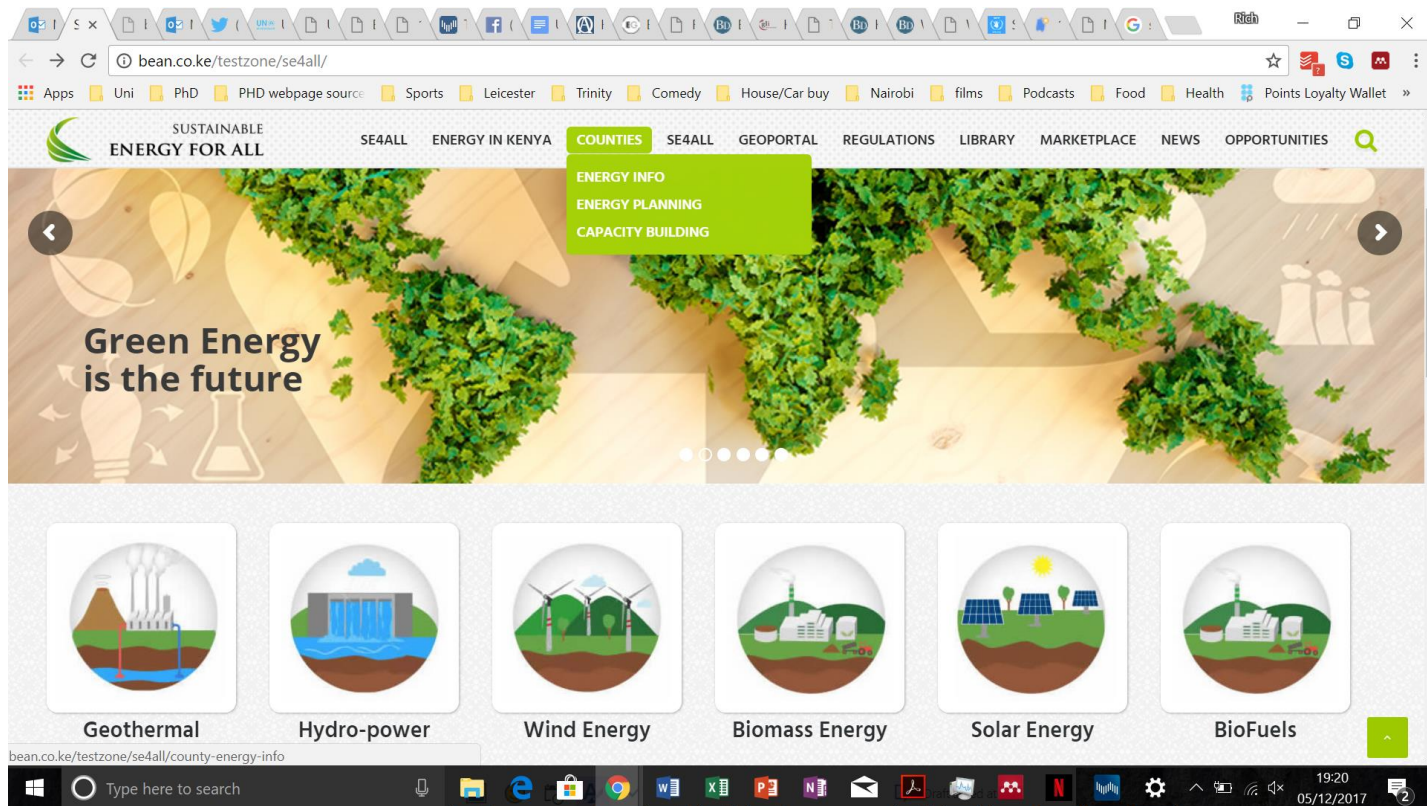
# Initial findings

- Perception – **previously ‘marginalised counties’ have benefitted** significantly since devolution in terms of general infrastructure (e.g. roads, health facilities)
- Energy governance since devolution: **more equitable, but probably not more effective (yet)**. Promulgation of the energy bill and clearer unbundling of energy roles could bring more effective energy governance
- Although improved compared to before devolution, **‘equitable’ allocation of resources is a key sticking point**
- Counties have opportunities, and seem better placed, to enact policies to facilitate (but not necessarily implement) the development of small-scale off-grid energy and clean cooking.

# Initial findings

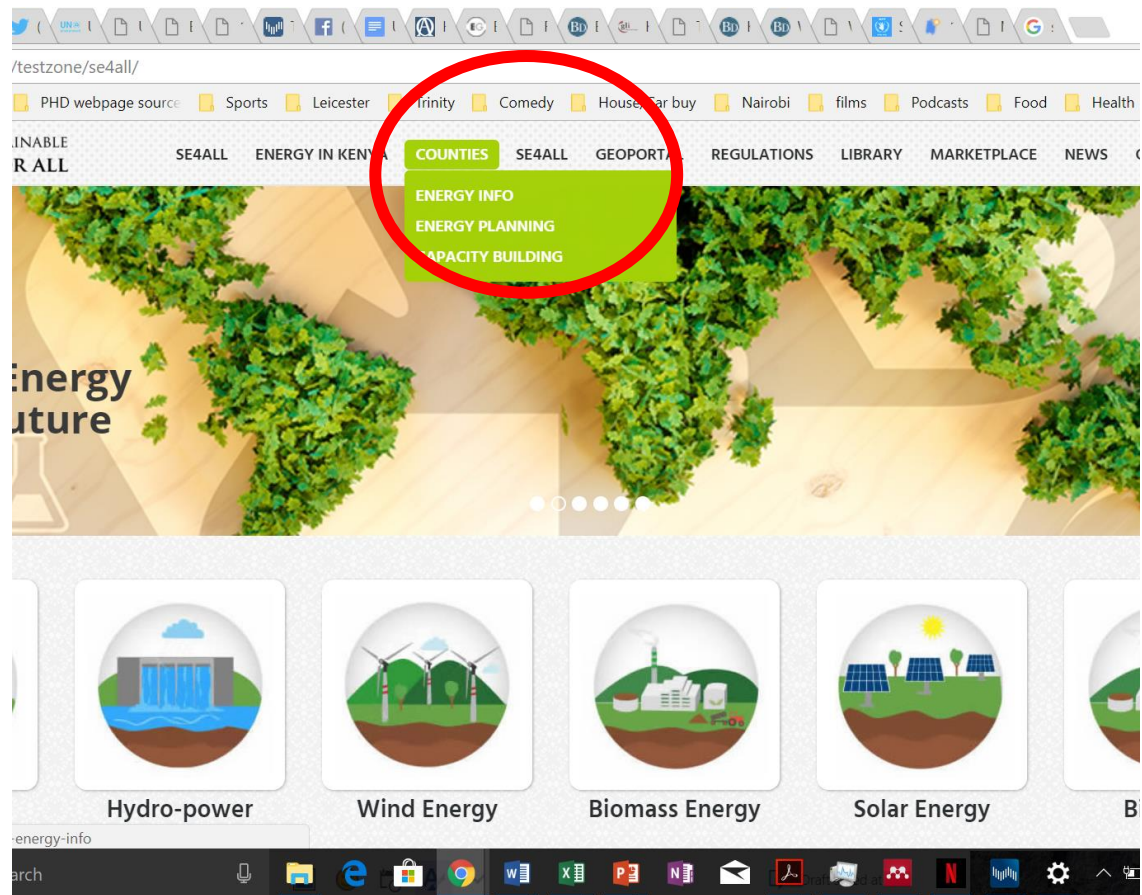
- County capacity building needs to be prioritised as it is a precursor for the county carrying out its energy roles.
- The cross cutting nature of energy with sectors, such as food, water, and health (e.g. with clean cooking) should be emphasised to avoid energy being under-prioritised by local governance (19 counties do not have specific energy departments).
- Need for greater coordination between the various stakeholders – e.g. county governments are not always aware of national government intentions in the energy sector
- Coordination hindered by a lack of platforms for information to be shared among stakeholders, although the SE4All website provides an ideal opportunity to address this

# SE4All Website

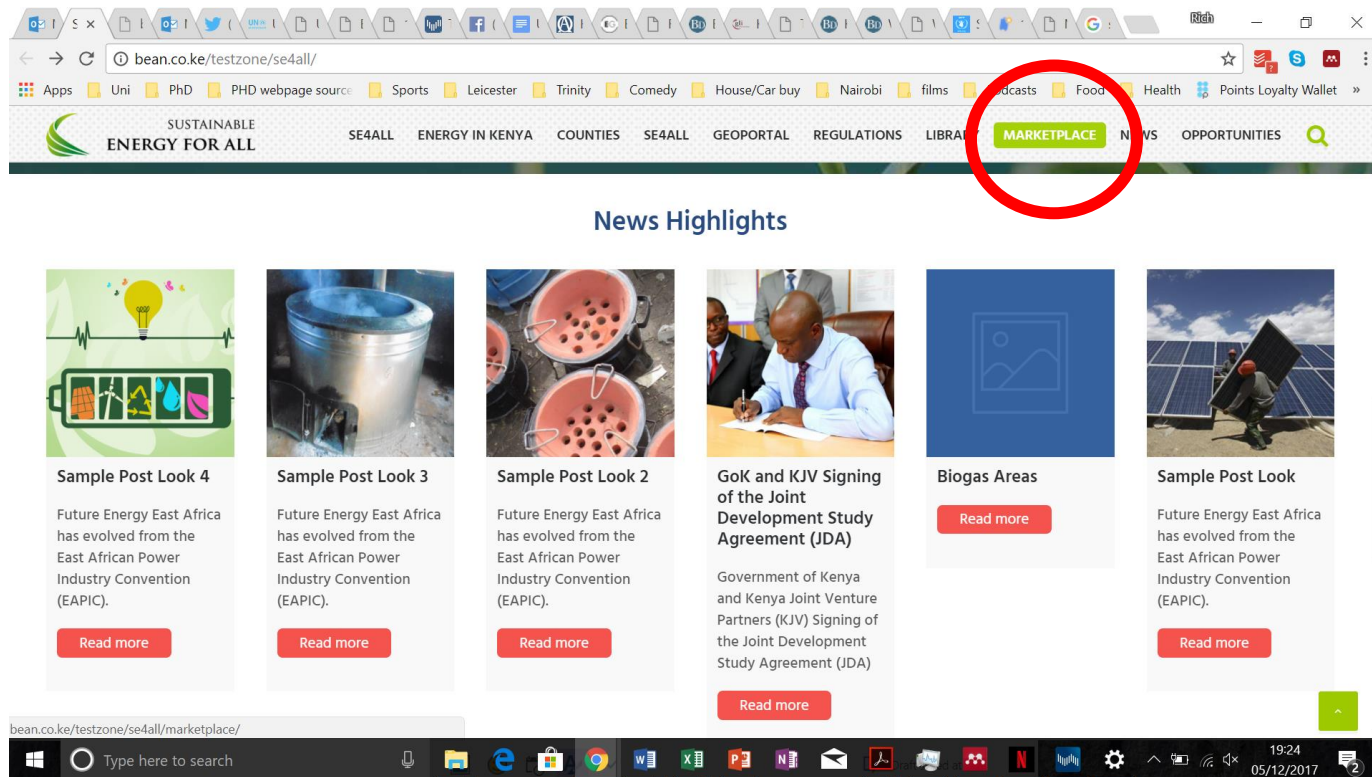


## Main features include

- One stop site for all matters energy in Kenya – merging data from the vast array of existing sources, including the ERC renewable energy portal, and USES project findings (e.g. READ)
- Provides a database of existing energy projects
- Dedicated county level focus, providing energy data at county level and a specific tab for county energy planning



**Critically**, the SE4All website builds on IRENA's regional market place by providing a national Kenyan marketplace to link investors to investment opportunities in the energy sector.



# Developed by the SE4All Technical Team subcommittee

- UNDP and MOEP led, involving a wide range of stakeholders including ERC, CCAK, Practical Action, Bean Interactive, and READ project representatives
- Website to be complete by the end of 2017 in order to be accessible at the start of 2018



Thank you for listening!