

World Energy Congress TODAY

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NEWS FROM THE FLOOR

Wish list for GENI

Exhibitors at WEC prepare for their participation in a variety of ways but in an unconventional approach, the Global Energy Network Institute (GENI) chose to do so by challenging top officials from members of the E8 to answer a list of questions about their attitudes to a selection of energy issues.

GENI is a research and education institute - focused on the interconnection of electric grids between nations, with an emphasis on tapping local and remote renewable energy resources. It seeks to highlight the issue of carbon pricing, economic choices, and sustainable options for the industry.

GENI's letter was sent in August to the top 20 officials of all E8 members and affiliates and, alluding to the theme of the World Energy Congress, pointed out that we are all interconnected today - linked across borders via gas pipelines, electric grids, telecommuni-

cation cable, and global finance. It argued that the new international factor facing the energy industry is carbon. Power production and the transport sector create two-thirds of global CO₂ emissions, and the public is becoming vocal in their demand for cleaner energy and fuels. It seems certain, argued GENI, that a 'market price per tonne of carbon' will soon be enacted and will dramatically alter the cost equation for fossil fuels.

As global leaders in the production electricity GENI asked the E8 members and their staff to consider the following:

1. Renewable Potential: What's the potential capacity of all the renewable resources in your service territory, including your neighbours? Could you meet most of your electrical requirements from these non-carbon resources? (Five nations already do: Norway, Iceland, Brazil, Canada and New Zealand.)

2. Interconnection: How could these renewables be integrated into your electric grid and provide the reliability, security and immediate dispatch that your customers require?

3. Fossil Fuel Transition: As existing fossil fuel and nuclear plants need replacing in the coming years, could renewables meet that replacement capacity using the same criteria?

4. Design: In the coming carbon constrained world of the future, how would you strategically plan, engineer, and build this out?

The GENI initiative advocates the interconnection of renewable energy resources around the world as a priority objective. It promotes cooperation between renewable developers, utilities, and neighbouring nations.

To find out what replies GENI received to its questions visit the Renewables Exhibit area in Hall 4 at stand F32.