## Abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDM</td>
<td>Clean Development Mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH₄</td>
<td>methane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO₂</td>
<td>carbon dioxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO₂ₑ</td>
<td>carbon dioxide equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>gross domestic product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GHG</td>
<td>greenhouse gas</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWh</td>
<td>gigawatt-hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICAT</td>
<td>Initiative for Climate Action Transparency</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEA</td>
<td>International Energy Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPCC</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</td>
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<td>IRENA</td>
<td>International Renewable Energy Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRR</td>
<td>internal rate of return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kWh</td>
<td>kilowatt-hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCOE</td>
<td>levelized cost of electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRV</td>
<td>monitoring, reporting and verification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MtCO₂ₑ</td>
<td>mega-tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>megawatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MWh</td>
<td>megawatt-hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDC</td>
<td>nationally determined contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV</td>
<td>photovoltaic</td>
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<tr>
<td>RE</td>
<td>renewable energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>tCO₂ₑ</td>
<td>tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>VRE</td>
<td>variable renewable energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>WACC</td>
<td>weighted average cost of capital</td>
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Glossary

**Activities**
The administrative activities involved in implementing a policy (undertaken by the authority or entity that implements the policy), such as permitting, licensing, procurement, or compliance and enforcement.

**Assessment period**
The time period over which GHG impacts resulting from a policy are assessed.

**Assessment report**
A report, completed by the user, that documents the assessment process, and the GHG, sustainable development and transformational impacts of a policy.

**Barrier**
Any obstacle to developing and deploying an RE potential that can be overcome or attenuated by a policy, programme or measure.

**Baseline scenario**
A reference case that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the absence of a policy (or package of policies) being assessed.

**Causal chain**
A conceptual diagram tracing the process by which a policy leads to impacts through a series of interlinked logical and sequential stages of cause-and-effect relationships.

**Electricity grid (grid)**
A network consisting of wires, switches and transformers to transmit electricity from power sources to power users. A large network is layered from low-voltage (110–240 V) distribution, over intermediate voltage (1–50 kV) to high-voltage (above 50 kV to MV) transport subsystems. Interconnected grids cover large areas (up to continents). The grid is a power exchange platform enhancing supply reliability and economies of scale.

**Emission factor**
A factor that converts activity data into GHG emissions data.

**Ex-ante assessment**
The process of estimating expected future GHG impacts of a policy (i.e. a forward-looking assessment).

**Ex-post assessment**
The process of estimating historical GHG impacts of a policy (i.e. a backward-looking assessment).

**Expert judgment**
A carefully considered, well-documented qualitative or quantitative judgment made in the absence of unequivocal observational evidence by a person or persons who have a demonstrable expertise in the given field.

**Feed-in tariff**
The price per unit of electricity that a utility or power supplier has to pay for distributed or renewable electricity fed into the grid by non-utility power producers.

**GHG assessment boundary**
The scope of the assessment in terms of the range of GHG impacts included in the assessment.

**GHG impacts**
Changes in GHG emissions by sources that result from a policy.

**Grid access**
The acceptance of power producers to deliver to the electricity grid.

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65 IPCC (2006).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Impact assessment</strong></th>
<th>Estimation of changes in GHG emissions or removals resulting from a policy, either ex-ante or ex-post</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent policies</strong></td>
<td>Policies that do not interact with each other, such that the combined effect of implementing the policies together is equal to the sum of the individual effects of implementing them separately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In-jurisdiction impacts</strong></td>
<td>Impacts that occur inside the geopolitical boundary over which the implementing entity has authority, such as a city boundary or national boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inputs</strong></td>
<td>Resources that go into implementing a policy, such as financing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intended impacts</strong></td>
<td>Impacts that are intentional, based on the original objectives of the policy. In some contexts, these are referred to as primary impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interacting policies</strong></td>
<td>Policies that produce total effects, when implemented together, that differ from the sum of the individual effects had they been implemented separately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intermediate effects</strong></td>
<td>Changes in behaviour, technology, processes or practices that result from a policy, which lead to GHG impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jurisdiction</strong></td>
<td>The geographic area within which an entity's (such as a government's) authority is exercised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key performance indicator (indicator)</strong></td>
<td>A metric that indicates the performance of a policy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Levelized cost of electricity (LCOE)</strong></td>
<td>The unique cost price of the outputs (US cent/kWh or USD/GJ) of a project that makes the present value of the revenues (benefits) equal to the present value of the costs over the lifetime of the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long-term impacts</strong></td>
<td>Impacts that are more distant in time, based on the amount of time between implementation of a policy and its impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monitoring period</strong></td>
<td>The time over which a policy is monitored, which may include pre-policy monitoring and post-policy monitoring in addition to the policy implementation period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Negative impacts</strong></td>
<td>Impacts that are perceived as unfavourable from the perspectives of decision makers and stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net metering</strong></td>
<td>The practice of using a single meter to measure consumption and generation of electricity by a small generation facility (such as a house with a wind or solar PV system). The net energy produced or consumed is purchased from, or sold to, respectively, the power producer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-policy drivers</strong></td>
<td>Conditions other than RE policies, such as socioeconomic factors and market forces, that are expected to affect the emissions sources included in the GHG assessment boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Out-of-jurisdiction impacts</strong></td>
<td>Impacts that occur outside the geopolitical boundary over which the implementing entity has authority, such as a city boundary or national boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overlapping policies</strong></td>
<td>Policies that interact with each other and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect less than the sum of their individual effects when implemented separately. They include both policies that have the same or complementary goals (such as national and subnational energy efficiency standards for appliances) and counteracting or countervailing policies that have different or opposing goals (such as a fuel tax and a fuel subsidy).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glossary Entry</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<td>--------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td>A variable such as activity data or emission factors that are needed to estimate GHG impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy or action</td>
<td>An intervention taken or mandated by a government, institution or other entity, which may include laws, regulations and standards; taxes, charges, subsidies and incentives; information instruments; voluntary agreements; implementation of technologies, processes or practices; and public or private sector financing and investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy implementation period</td>
<td>The time period during which a policy is in effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy scenario</td>
<td>A scenario that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the presence of a policy (or package of RE policies) being assessed. The policy scenario is the same as the baseline scenario except that it includes the policy (or package of policies) being assessed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive impacts</td>
<td>Impacts that are perceived as favourable from the perspectives of decision makers and stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power purchase agreement (PPA)</td>
<td>A contract between an electricity (power) producer and an electricity consumer (or distributor). Historically, PPAs have been signed between utilities and independent power producers as a way for the utility to procure additional generation. In recent years, PPAs have been used as a way for power consumers to purchase electricity, often from solar systems, from a third-party power producer (National Renewable Energy Laboratory definition).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE addition</td>
<td>The additional installation of RE capacity or electricity generation from renewable sources realized via a policy, expressed in megawatts (MW) or megawatt-hours (MWh), respectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinforcing policies</td>
<td>Policies that interact with each other and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect greater than the sum of their individual effects when implemented separately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable energy</td>
<td>Any form of energy from solar, geophysical or biological sources that is replenished by natural processes at a rate that equals or exceeds its rate of use. Renewable energy is obtained from the continuing or repetitive flows of energy occurring in the natural environment. It includes low-carbon technologies such as solar energy, hydropower, wind, tide and waves, and ocean thermal energy, as well as renewable fuels such as biomass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable portfolio standard</td>
<td>A legal mandate that requires utilities to procure a certain percentage or flat amount of renewable electricity or power, based on their total generation. Utilities can procure the RE via direct ownership or the purchase of RE credits (National Renewable Energy Laboratory definition).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term impacts</td>
<td>Impacts that are nearer in time, based on the amount of time between implementation of a policy and its impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar energy</td>
<td>Energy from the sun that is captured either as heat, as light that is converted into chemical energy by natural or artificial photosynthesis, or by PV panels and converted directly into electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholders</td>
<td>People, organizations, communities or individuals who are affected by, and/or who have influence or power over, a policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RE** stands for Renewable Energy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sustainable development impacts</strong></th>
<th>Changes in environmental, social or economic conditions that result from a policy, such as changes in economic activity, employment, public health, air quality and energy security</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transmission and distribution</strong></td>
<td>The network that transmits electricity through wires from where it is generated to where it is used. The distribution system refers to the lower-voltage system that delivers the electricity to the end consumer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uncertainty</strong></td>
<td>(1) Quantitative definition: Measurement that characterizes the dispersion of values that could reasonably be attributed to a parameter. (2) Qualitative definition: A general term that refers to the lack of certainty in data and methodological choices, such as the application of non-representative factors or methods, incomplete data or lack of transparency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unintended impacts</strong></td>
<td>Impacts that are unintentional based on the original objectives of a policy. In some contexts, these are referred to as secondary impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utility</strong></td>
<td>An entity in the electric power industry that engages in electricity generation and distribution of electricity for sale, generally in a regulated market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weighted average cost of capital (WACC)</strong></td>
<td>The rate that a company is expected to pay, on average, to all its security holders to finance its assets, including the fraction of each financing source in the company's capital structure</td>
</tr>
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References

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ICAT country applications
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