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# **NextEnergy Group unveils Nature Strategy:** **driving dual action on climate and nature**

NextEnergy Group, a leading market participant in the international solar sector, is proud to launch a standalone Nature Strategy with clear targets to protect and restore nature, setting a new benchmark for driving dual action on nature and climate.

Nature is key to our prosperity. Despite the ambitious **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)**, nature continues to deteriorate rapidly, and current efforts fall short of achieving the goals of the Framework. Urgent, more effective action is needed to meet them.

At NextEnergy Group, we have pioneered biodiversity initiatives and solutions on our solar sites since 2014. We co-create optimal outcomes for clean energy and nature, as our activities encompass all stages of the asset lifecycle: development, financing and asset management activities.

Building on the lessons learned from environmental management activities over the last 20 years, NextEnergy Group’s new Nature Strategy establishes a science-based and evidence-led thread to unite our core companies’ future nature-related activities. It is designed to avoid and manage nature-related risks while opening opportunities to create and capture value from the evolving nature markets.

The Strategy establishes clear commitments which are aligned with emerging global standards, such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (**TNFD**), the Science-Based Targets Network (**SBTN**), the Capitals Coalition **ACT-D** framework and the **KM-GBF.** The core components of the Group’s Nature Strategy include commitments to strong nature-related governance, evidence-led action plans, use of science-based targets, and ongoing transparent disclosures.

Key targets set out in the Strategy include:

* **No Conversion of Natural Ecosystems:** an SBTN-aligned commitment to prevent the material loss of natural ecosystems in direct operations and supply chains;
* **Responsible Land Use Target:**to ensure the Group remains a responsible land steward across its assets, implementing nature management plans and prioritising dual land-use regimes;
* **30x30 Nature Restoration Target:**to restore natural ecosystems in the regions where the Group operates and which need support; and
* **Supply Chain Transparency and Sustainability:**toensure that the resources we depend on are sourced responsibly and in a transparent manner.

Since our inception, NextEnergy Group has specialised in the solar sector. As the energy transition accelerates, and the Group’s activities evolve into these new renewable energy technologies, the Nature Strategy will develop and expand to continue leading the transition to renewable energy and the broader sustainable investment sphere.

**Giulia Guidi, Head of ESG, NextEnergy Group, commented:** “Early in our journey, we realised that financed, developed and harnessed in the right way, renewable energy is an investment strategy that can mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, and minimise nature loss. I am excited to launch this Strategy – it is a critical step in translating what we know about nature into action.”

**Hing Kin Lee, Group Lead for Nature, NextEnergy Group added:** “The urgent need to address the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss has never been clearer. Our Nature Strategy serves as a practical roadmap, guiding the steps we are taking to achieve a nature positive future. As leaders in the solar and sustainable finance industries, we are committed to driving transformative change while unlocking new opportunities for long-term value creation.”

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**Further information**

NextEnergy Group was founded in 2007 to become a leading market participant in the international solar sector. Since its inception, it has been active in the development, construction, and ownership of solar assets across multiple jurisdictions. NextEnergy Group operates via its three business units: [NextEnergy Capital](http://www.nextenergycapital.com/) (Investment Management), [WiseEnergy](http://www.wise-energy.com.) (Operating Asset Management), and [Starlight](https://www.starlight-energy.com/) (Asset Development).

Further information on the NextEnergy Group is available at: <https://www.nextenergygroup.com/>.

**Spotlight on NextEnergy Group:**

**NextEnergy Capital**

To date, NextEnergy Capital (“NEC”) has invested in over 460 individual solar plants for a capacity in excess of 3GW across its institutional funds.

* **First Fund:** NextEnergy Solar Fund (“NESF”), is a specialist solar energy and energy storage fund, which is listed on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. It currently has an installed capacity of 983MW spread among 102 individual operating assets in the UK and Italy, comprising an unaudited gross asset value of £1,014m. NESF is one of the largest listed solar and energy storage investment companies in the world.
* **Second Fund:** NextPower II (“NPII”), a private fund made up of 105 individual operating solar power plants and an installed capacity of 149MW, focused on consolidating the substantial, highly fragmented Italian solar market. NPII was successfully divested in January 2022, a 2016 vintage vehicle that generated net IRRs in excess of its gross target of 10-12%.
* **Third Fund:** NextPower III ESG (“NPIII ESG”), is a private fund exclusively focused on the international solar infrastructure sector, principally targeting projects in carefully selected OECD countries, including the US, Portugal, Spain, Chile, Poland, and Italy. NPIII is a fund that provides a positive social and environmental impact to the countries it has and will invest in. NPIII completed its fundraising with a total of $896m, including an SMA raised. The target of the fund was $750m.
* **Fourth Fund:** NextPower UK ESG (“NPUK ESG”), is a private solar fund focused on new-build solar plants in the UK. NPUK has to date raised c.£730m in commitments from investors.
* **Fifth Fund:** NextPower V ESG (“NPV ESG”), is a private contracted OECD solar strategy that offers investors the opportunity to earn strong risk-adjusted returns from the solar PV infrastructure asset class with a highly experienced team and a track record of success in OECD-based solar deployment. The strategy will primarily invest in OECD solar assets and adjacent technologies (e.g. battery storage) in the target markets. NPV ESG has to date raised $745m in commitments (including $150m in co-investment allocations) and is targeting $1.5bn in size with a $2bn ceiling.

Further information on NEC is available at: [www.nextenergycapital.com](http://www.nextenergycapital.com)

**WiseEnergy**

WiseEnergy® is NextEnergy Group’s operating asset manager. WiseEnergy is a leading specialist operating asset manager in the solar sector. Since its founding, WiseEnergy has provided solar asset management, monitoring, technical due diligence and under construction services to over 1,500 utility-scale solar power plants with an installed total capacity in excess of 3.4 GW. WiseEnergy clients comprise leading banks and equity financiers in the energy and infrastructure sector.

Further information on WiseEnergy® is available at: [www.wise-energy.com](http://www.wise-energy.com)

**Starlight**

Starlight is NextEnergy Group’s development company that is active in the development phase of solar projects. It has developed over 100 utility-scale projects internationally and continues to progress a large pipeline of c.10GW of both green and brownfield project developments across global geographies.

Further information on Starlight is available at: <https://www.starlight-energy.com>

**NextSTEP**

NextSTEP (NextEnergy Sustainable TEchnology for the Planet) is the venture capital fund of NextEnergy Group, dedicated to investing in innovative startups in the field of environmental sustainability. The fund primarily focuses on investments in Italy and the United Kingdom but also extends its reach to the rest of Europe and the United States, targeting startups in the pre-seed and seed stages. NextSTEP pays particular attention to emerging entities from incubators, startup accelerators, universities, and research centers, supporting projects that address global challenges in crucial areas such as Climate Change, Energy Transition, CO2 Capture and Sequestration, Circular Economy, Sustainable Cities, Sustainable Mobility, Sustainable Fashion, Waste Management, Water and much more.

To date, less than 3 years since its founding, NextSTEP has invested in 15 projects, funding startups with a total value of approximately 2 million euros. Thanks to the support of NextEnergy Group and its focus on impact innovation, NextSTEP positions itself as a leader in developing a Cleantech ecosystem capable of driving the change towards a more sustainable future.

Further information on the NexSTEP is available at: [www.nextstepaccelerator.com](http://www.nextstepaccelerator.com)

**NextEnergy Foundation**

NextEnergy Foundation is a non-profit organisation founded in 2016 by the NextEnergy Group that operates internationally and whose mission is to proactively participate in the global effort to reduce carbon emissions by providing clean energy sources in regions where they are not yet available and thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

As the main sponsor of this foundation, the NextEnergy Group donates at least 5% of its consolidated net profits each year. The NextEnergy Foundation has no overhead costs and therefore 100% of the funds raised go to donations for the various projects.

Since 2016, in 8 years of operation the foundation has donated more than £1.2 million, supporting over 30 projects in 27 different countries around the world.

Further information on the NextEnergy Foundation is available at: https://www.nextenergygroup.com/

www.nextenergyfoundation.org.

**Contact Us**

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