



## **SYMPOSIUM ON URBAN GOVERNANCE AND JUST TRANSITIONS TO CLEANER ENERGY FOR HOUSEHOLD USES FOR THE URBAN POOR IN ODISHA**

**Wednesday, 23 October 2024, Bhubaneswar, Odisha  
Hotel Fortune Park Sishmo: 2.30pm-6.30pm**

Low-income settlements (urban poor) in India rely on cheaper and unreliable sources of energy for household use, which compromises their quality of life and are also polluting. Urban poor are also the most vulnerable to climate change shocks and stresses, in terms of climate change. However, even as the large mitigation targets focus on improving the supply side of energy, the urban poor are often left out of climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Development efforts are often limited to the primary concerns of the urban poor such as around water, sanitation, housing security, employment, income stability, and living costs. The Just Transition narrative also typically focuses on supply-side energy issues, neglecting the potential of a strong demand-side to aid the transition. The urban poor are a crucial constituency for energy efficiency, the viability of cleaner fuels, and warrant attention in Just Transitions.

Given this premise, Janaagraha recently concluded a study on developing clean energy pathways for household uses for low-income settlements in Odisha, primarily in relation to cooking and in part, related to electricity and household appliances. This included:

- First, secondary research to provide background and context, including derivation of a clean energy framework and a universe of clean energy solutions.
- Next, a large quantitative survey of 5000 households and co-creation of the clean energy pathways with citizens, that captures their choice behavior, willingness and feasibility contours (e.g., maximum willingness to pay and travel for fuel and appliance purchase/repair, willingness to take a loan) to transition, from a bottom-up perspective.

The research reveals a strong community desire to adopt cleaner cooking (and electricity) fuels and appliances, and in many ways their road to dignity and self-reliance away from supply chains, making a case for a fuller Just Transition.

The emergent pathways highlight several key conditions needed for just transitions for the communities and identifies action areas and opportunities for stakeholders—government, social sector, and private sector—to make these cleaner alternatives a reality.

To that end, this event aims to share the journey, findings and pathways that emerge from the study which come together at the key themes of equity, climate and governance. Towards this, we aim to discuss with key stakeholders (for a converging top-down view), the positioning of these findings in the wider eco-system; importance, feasibility and efforts required by different stakeholders for such transitions to come to fruition. Within this we place significant emphasis on the role of urban governance in facilitating Just Transitions for the urban poor.

The event aims to bring together 5 key categories of stakeholders in the 'just transitions' eco-system:

- (a) Government,
- (b) Industry/supply chain - technology providers, manufacturers, vendors and distributors,
- (c) Civil society,
- (d) Academia/researchers, and
- (e) Representatives of low-income settlements.

The event aims to share perspectives and deliberate upon:

1. What did the residents of low-income settlements say about their fuel–appliance choices, their willingness to adopt cleaner technologies and the contours of transition acceptable to them?
2. How can we elevate/integrate perspectives of low-income settlements in shaping a Just Transitions journey?
3. Are the contours for cleaner technology adoption set by the low-income settlements feasible for the supply side? If not or limited, then what would it take for the supply side stakeholders?
4. What can the city government (elected and officials) and/or state government, do to help facilitate these transitions?



AGENDA			
S. No.	Session	Details	Session time
1	<b>Welcome</b> [Plenary setting]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome address by Janaagraha.</li> <li>Setting the context by the Project Advisory Group (PAG).</li> </ul>	2:30 pm - 2:45 pm
2	<b>Keynote Address</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keynote address by Shri Debasis Singh - Director of Municipal Administration – Government of Odisha.</li> </ul>	2:45 pm - 3:00 pm
3	<b>Unveiling fuel - appliance choices, contours of transition and emerging clean energy pathways:</b> <i>Insights from the study</i> [Plenary setting]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of insights emerging from the Study.</li> </ul>	3:00 pm – 3:50 pm
4	<b>Voices from the floor:</b> <i>Reflections from the audience</i> [Plenary setting]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflections shared by the Project Advisory Group.</li> <li>Reflections from the community.</li> <li>Open mic reflections/Q&amp;A from the audience.</li> </ul>	3:50 pm – 4:15 pm
<b>High tea/coffee break</b>			4:15 pm – 4:45 pm
5	<b>Bringing the pathways to life:</b> <i>A conversation between the stakeholders</i> [Circle setting]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 key fuel circles – biogas, electricity, solar and LPG</li> <li>3 key questions to answer:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do the contours for adoption outlined by the low-income settlements work for the specific technology?</li> <li>- How can stakeholders work individually/collaboratively to make it work? (e.g., Funding – loan, subsidy, grants, etc.; technology; awareness/ knowledge, supply chain)</li> <li>- What can the relevant ministry, state and city governments do to make the pathways workable?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	4:45 pm – 5:45 pm
6	<b>In a nutshell: Summarizing the discussions</b> [Plenary setting]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead from each circle to share takeaways from their discussion.</li> <li>Janaagraha to summarize the circle discussions and present a high- level picture.</li> </ul>	5:45 pm – 6:15 pm
7	<b>End notes:</b> <i>The way forward</i> [Plenary setting]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflections from the Project Advisory Group.</li> <li>Way forward by Janaagraha.</li> </ul>	6:15 pm – 6:30 pm
<b>Tea/coffee/snacks and networking</b>			6:30 pm – 7:00 pm