Current performance and recent improvement in environmental sustainability have done the least well in relation to the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, in terms of security and access, the gap between top- and bottom-performing countries continues to be substantial. This is especially true for countries with high dependency on energy imports, where security and access remain a concern.

For example, energy importing economies showed higher transition readiness levels and also benefitted more from lower energy prices over the last five years. Of these countries, some with lower development status, energy trade balance) to identify good practice examples and develop suitable improvement levers, applicable for their circumstances.

Countries that have not pursued a balanced approach to improve the energy triangle across its three dimensions managed to narrow the gap in security and access, and economic development and growth. Since transition readiness is multidimensional, countries need to establish favourable conditions across all three dimensions. Without these enablers in place, countries’ performance would be average at best.

Improvements, e.g. China or Kenya, show that it is possible to make significant progress, even from a low energy index. For these countries, private sector support and public policies have contributed to narrowing the gap between their performance and that of their peers. The presence of enablers (transition readiness in the ETI) is a strong indicator for the increased performance ranking.

The countries with the highest readiness scores are leading the way in energy transition. They have established a working ecosystem of enablers, including strong regulations, policies, and practices that support the transition towards a sustainable energy future. These enablers include high-quality institutions, human capital, and governance structures that facilitate the deployment of sustainable energy technologies.

The implementation of new bold ideas and the replication of good practices are essential for countries to achieve significant improvements in their energy systems. The ETI highlights innovation activities and ideas recommended for step changes to accelerate innovation in a wide set of sustainable energy technologies.

The ETI is a comparative performance index that allows for benchmarking and comparative analysis among peers can highlight opportunities to improve such roadmaps.

The three major findings from the Energy Transition Index are:

1. Performance rankings and recent improvement in environmental sustainability have done the least well.
2. Security and access remains the area with the biggest gap between top- and bottom-performing countries.
3. Countries that have not pursued a balanced approach to improve the energy triangle across its three dimensions.

Recent reports from the World Economic Forum System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Energy

System performance imperatives

Transition readiness enabling dimensions

Industry Agenda

Fostering Effective Energy Transition

Energy Transition Index 2018

The System initiative on Shaping the Future of Energy aims to accelerate the development of effective policies, private-sector actions and public policy collaboration for an inclusive, affordable, sustainable and secure energy future essential for economic and social development. The complexity of energy transition requires a systemic perspective and the involvement of many stakeholders. The following reports summarize the Forum's perspective on other complementary dimensions of energy transition.
Regional Rankings

Performance/Readiness Matrix

Energy Transition Index Score

System Performance

Table of Rankings