



# Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Chitra Rajan  
National President, Renewable Energy  
Council

## WICCI Renewable Energy Council – Inputs for Budget 2021

The primary objective for deploying renewable energy in India is to advance economic development, improve energy security, improve access to energy, and mitigate climate change. Sustainable development is possible by use of sustainable energy and by ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for citizens. Strong government support and the increasingly opportune economic situation have pushed India to be one of the top leaders in the world's most attractive renewable energy markets. The government has designed policies, programs, and a liberal environment to attract foreign investments to ramp up the country in the renewable energy market at a rapid rate. It is anticipated that the renewable energy sector can create a large number of domestic jobs over the following years.

### About WICCI

Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI) ([www.wicci.in](http://www.wicci.in)) is the very first independent National Business Chamber for Women.

WICCI aims to bring about fundamental changes in governmental policies, laws and incentives with a view to robustly encourage and empower women in business, industry and commerce across all sectors and fields.

WICCI and its manifold Councils at National, Regional, State and City levels, as well as International, representing a wide variety of Sectors, will suggest from time to time concrete steps and recommendations to relevant government authorities to help mitigate our many challenges and to empower women-owned businesses to become more competitive.

The various Councils in over 200+ sectors will develop different areas of concentration and specialization in order to mainstream women's voice and uphold women's interest in policy making at multiple levels, to help women get better incentives, improved access to finance and other measures that empower the competitiveness of Businesswomen, Entrepreneurs and Professional Women in all walks of life.

Councils, in their respective sectors and reach, will work along with their Council Members on focused areas of concentration, to present suitable representation and recommendations to the Central/State/Union Territory governments, and other Institutions as the case be. WICCI will conduct important research studies and support skill development toward promoting women's enterprise in the economic mainstream.

## Recommendations

Renewable energy and environment related innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in India currently faces the following gaps that need to be filled. Here are our recommendations to fill them.

### Support for Early Stage Technologies Innovation:

#### Policy

1. Extend the current “National Student and Faculty Startup Policy 2019” and “Science, Technology and Innovation Policy” to support activities related to translating the technology from early stage (TRL 3-4) to market ready (TRL 6-7) form and conducting field trials to validate the technology.

#### Infrastructure

1. Strong technology transfer infrastructure which can go beyond administrative support to be a true enabler in protecting, translating and commercialization of intellectual property developed by academic institute R&D centers and independent innovators.
2. Creating physical infrastructure accessible to both academic institute and R&D centers and independent innovators to build and test proof-of-concept/proof-of-value prototypes and pilot manufacturing.
3. Creating platforms for experienced entrepreneurs and innovators with early stage (pre-product-market fit) stage technologies to connect.
4. Creating platforms for connecting the teams performing translation work and field testing with experienced mentors from India and abroad.

#### Skills development

1. Training professionals in technology transfer and commercialization by setting up a centre similar to IP Academy in Singapore.

#### Funding

1. Funding for translation of technology from early stage (TRL 3-4) to market ready (TRL 6-7). This kind of funding is currently available under BIRAC program for biotechnology related projects but this leaves out funding for renewable energy and environmental technologies that fall outside of the biotechnology space. This funding is crucial to the development of this sector in India.
2. Funding training and development of industry personnel in technology commercialization skills to increase the capability and interest of Indian companies to license and commercialize technologies that result from government funded academic research.
3. In cases where there is focused Government promotion like SATAT scheme for CBG producers, the banks funding should be on project receivables rather than on collateral based funding.

## Support for Later Stage Industry-Led Innovation & Growth:

1. Creating funding mechanisms for large industry led consortia to develop innovative technologies and demonstrate “figure of merit” performance in renewable energy and environmental space.
2. Creating test bedding facilities within PSUs to demonstrate innovative solutions from industry players.
3. Relaxation of tendering norms around “years of existence”, “value of assets”, “number of installations” and other parameters that restrict young start-ups from participating in government contracts.
4. Creating enabling policy around debt and equity financing, and insurance to keep domestic industry on equal footing with foreign counterparts.
5. Creating a platform to access up-to-date information, and to participate in regulation of emerging solutions.
6. Biofuel projects have assumed a great importance in India to reduce dependence on imported fuel. Govt. initiatives by way of reduced import duties for oils used for biodiesel, reduced GST for local purchases for the same reason as above, income tax holidays and subsidies for those managing the supply of raw materials end for wet biomass can attract entry of professional operators in the supply end of the segment making life easier for manufacturers and enabling better finance alternatives.

## WICCI Renewable Energy Council

1. **Dr. Chitra Rajan** – President WICCI Renewable Energy Council. Ph. D. in Organizational Leadership. Mentor with Private Financing Advisory network (PFAN) promoted by UNDP and REEEP. Serial entrepreneur currently working in the field of renewable energy.
2. **Dr. Hiran Vedam** – Vice President WICCI Renewable Energy Council - Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University. Business executive with more than 20 years of experience in commercialization of advanced technologies. Her domain expertise is in advanced materials and their applications for energy, environment and water.
3. **Dr. Vanita Prasad** – Ph. D. in bio technology – Entrepreneur with expertise in biotechnology and related fields
4. **Dr. Shalini Sharma** - An environment management and policy professional with 12 years of post-Ph.D. experience, twirled as scienKfic-entrepreneur to enable sustainable development of countries. Co-Founder & CEO, Sanshodhan a E-Waste Exchange Pvt Ltd.
5. **Dr. Rashi Gupta** - A pioneer in manufacturing of Advanced Lithium Batteries in India. Founder & Managing Director of M/s Vision Mechatronics Private Ltd.
6. **Dr. Anuradda Ganesh** - Director and Chief Technical Advisor, Cummins Technologies India Pvt Ltd, Adjunct Professor I.I.T Bombay. Advises on the future technology trends, future regulatory policies and R&D and innovation
7. **Dr. Preeti Aghalayam** – Professor IIT Madras – Department of Chemical engineering. Area of expertise – Underground Coal Gasification & reduction of automotive NOX



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8. **Bhagyashree S. Devi** – Project Director Theistic Business Consultants. – Business advisory & Strategy consulting services for businesses facing disruption.
9. **Aayushi Jain** – Promoter Landra Toka, Climate Impact and clean technology champion.
10. **Simar Kohli** - Co-Founder, Director, ECOSTP Technologies Pvt Ltd. Entrepreneur, educator and catalyst focusing on building communities that value sustainability, justice and harmony.
11. **Sanjogita Mishra** - Currently heading all operations of Tata STRIVE, a Skill Development Initiative of Tata Trusts, in the state of Odisha.
12. **Dibya Singh** – Project Office UNDP – responsible for the implementation of the IKEA Foundation funded project Disha: Creating Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Women in India
13. **Anjana Iyer** - Founder & Trustee, Full Circle, Bangalore, a not for profit organization committed to sustainable water & waste management. Director, One Hop Organics Pvt. Ltd. - Promoting organic waste composting through the Orbin system.
14. **Monika Jha** – Founder Cydee Technologies – promoting innovative IOT enabled lighting infrastructure.