

Sustainable development indicators

The National CDM Authority (NCDMA), which is the Designated National Authority (DNA) for the Government of India (GOI) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), has mentioned four indicators for the sustainable development in the interim approval guidelines for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects from India¹. Thus the project's contribution towards sustainable development has been addressed based on the following sustainable development aspects:

1. Social well being:

The CDM project activity should lead to alleviation of poverty by generating additional employment, removal of social disparities and contribution to provision of basic amenities to people leading to improvement in quality of life of people.

2. Environmental well being:

- The project activity employs solar power for generation of electricity thereby displacing fossil fuels which are being rapidly consumed to meet the growing demand of electricity in the country thus contributing towards reduction in GHG emissions.
- Solar power projects generate no end products in the form of solid waste (ash etc.) compared to alternative modes of power generation (e.g. coal based on which the Indian grid is primarily dependent). Hence the project activity is a cleaner source of power generation and is encouraging greener practice of power generation. The solar power project indirectly is contributing towards conservation of non-renewable resources which are under the constant threat of depletion due to excessive and rapid growth of energy demand.
- The growing threat of global warming which is a key concern is also addressed due to renewable energy use thereby mitigating climate change.

3. Economic well being:

This should include a discussion of impact of the project activity on resource sustainability and resource degradation, if any, due to proposed activity; bio-diversity friendliness; impact on human health; reduction of levels of pollution in general;

- The project activity leads to an investment in the region accompanied with business and employment benefits along with improvement of grid supply which otherwise would not have happened in the absence of project activity.
- The clean electricity generated through solar power by the project activity would be fed into the local grid thereby improving the availability of electricity in the region. This would provide a better scenario for local industries and businesses to improve their production capacities thereby contributing towards the overall economic development of the region.

4. Technological well being:

The CDM project activity should lead to environmentally safe and sound technologies that are comparable to best practices in order to assist in up gradation of the technological base.

¹ http://cdmindia.gov.in/approval_process.php