GFEI achievements recognised at COP22

The COP22 talks in Marrakech followed the successful negotiation and ratification of the Paris Agreement, which was agreed in December 2015 at COP21. The amazing progress of GFEI in securing the agreement of 40 new countries to take part in our work to promote fuel economy, was recognised in the COP22 Global Climate Action roundup on transport.

Sheila Watson, Executive Secretary of GFEI said:

'It is very thrilling to achieve this level of recognition for the work which is carried out by GFEI partners all across the world. Our commitment to this work grows and grows because the benefits to be gained from action on fuel economy are so huge and so important. From reduced CO₂ and massive resource savings to huge financial gains, we want to see the whole world on track for better fuel economy - and we will continue our efforts until it is.'

Watch Global Climate Action on Transport at COP22 film: http://bit.ly/2h5sOVS

On Friday 11th November in Marrakesh, the Global Fuel Economy Initiative participated in an official COP22 side event, “Transforming Ambition into Local Action: NDC Implementation towards sustainable, low carbon mobility”. GFEI’s new report charts fuel economy progress globally, and provides a detailed update on the activities that the partnership has been engaged in during the past year.

At COP21, GFEI set an ambitious goal of extending our partnership to include 100 countries committing to contributing to doubling average fuel economy globally by 2050 – what we call ‘100 for 5by50’. The new report sets out how GFEI has expanded our country engagement from 26 countries to over 65. Launching the report, Sheila Watson (GFEI’s Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Director of the FIA Foundation) said “This report sets out the important progress GFEI is making in reducing emissions from vehicles. We are expanding our work in every region, and galvanising action.”

View the latest news stories from the Global Fuel Economy Initiative at www.globalfueleconomy.org/blog
Building the sustainable transport network

GFEI is committed to working together with others to reduce emissions from the transport sector. GFEI works closely with the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT). As well as organising meetings and events, SLoCaT co-ordinated an exhibit at COP22 and jointly organised, together with Michelin Challenge Bibendum (through the Paris Process on Mobility and Climate) a special drinks reception in the heart of the Marrakech Medina for guests to support ongoing networking and collaboration.

The COP22 exhibit was visited by hundreds of delegates during the two-weeks of COP and included GFEI’s special film highlighting the importance of fuel economy policies on the exhibit’s screen. Visitors were also able to receive further information and GFEI publications electronically – saving paper and reducing the carbon impact.

At the low carbon reception, Cornie Huizenga, said that from the transport sector being peripheral to climate discussions, it is now seen by the UNFCCC as a ‘model sector’, leading by examples about how to encourage co-operation and action.

GFEI a “quick win” in the global climate action agenda for transport

On Saturday 12th November, transport was the thematic focus of the Action Agenda coordinated by the French and Moroccan governments. The GFEI, one of twenty transport ‘quick wins’, was invited to speak to share success stories with delegates including the benefits of improved fuel economy, and how GFEI is working with countries to build capacity and support them to reduce emissions from vehicles.

The all-day event included a range of speakers from government, private sector and other transport stakeholders, an address from Prince Albert II of Monaco, who emphasised the importance of sustainable transport and highlighted the significance of the FIA Formula E event being held in Marrakech later that day as an example of the potential of e-mobility to contribute to clean, low-carbon transport. Other speakers included Lawrence Tubiana, representing the French government, Jose Viegas representing GFEI partner the International Transport Forum, and Patrick Oliva representing Michelin.
Also on Saturday 12th November, leading transport experts met in the EU pavilion at COP22 to share experiences of supporting projects that make a real difference to people’s lives, helping them move around cities in a clean and low carbon way, saving money and reducing air pollution.

The series of presentations included detailed modelling about future transport emissions from the IEA, and the potential for car-sharing technology to reduce congestion and emissions. GFEI partners the FIA Foundation, International Energy Agency, International Transport Forum, and UC Davis participated in the event as well as the Wuppertal Institute and the World Resources Institute.

Sheila Watson’s presentation highlighted GFEI’s in-country capacity building work, including toolkit and modelling tools that help governments understand and introduce the most appropriate fuel economy policies for their own context. She also shared the FIA Foundation’s other major initiatives around safe routes to school for children, and focus on women’s security on public transport.

In this way the climate change discussions continued to build on the conclusions of the New Urban Agenda which was agreed in Quito.

On Monday 14th November, GFEI again participated in a side event in the EU Pavilion – this time as part of EU energy day. As part of Sustainable Energy for All, Sheila Watson shared the experiences of Mauritius in introducing fuel economy policies. In the panel, on Energy for Islands, she highlighted the potential of using fiscal measures to incentivise the importation of cleaner, more efficient, vehicles.
In recent years, the middle Sunday at COP summits have been used for Transport Day, a stimulating and varied mixture of expert input, shared experience including from national delegates. This year was no different. In the beautiful setting of the Es Saadi hotel in central Marrakech nearly two hundred people participated in a series of plenary talks, side events and discussions.

The key message of transport day was that progress is being made, but that far more needs to be done if there is any chance of restricting global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees centigrade. Cornie Huizinga of SLoCaT said in his introduction to the day, there is a need to dream big and continue to press towards more ambitious goals. Holger Daalkmann of WRI, speaking next emphasised that this meant an imperative for action – a need to both ‘Dream Big and Act Big’. Patrick Oliva of Michelin said ‘We have enough knowledge to know what we need to do – now we need to do it’, emphasising the need for transport, energy and finance to work together.

GFEI was featured in two breakout sessions. The first, focused specifically on fuel economy progress globally shared the latest data and trends with participants. Lew Fulton outlined the latest analysis from GFEI’s working paper series, including fuel economy trends globally (Working Paper 12 by the IEA), the potential for fuel economy improvements in heavy duty vehicles (Working Paper 13 by ICCT) and detailed analysis of trends in electric vehicle markets to explore the potential growth paths (Working Paper 14 by UC Davis). Sheila Watson shared the in-country progress that is being made as a response to GFEI’s 100 for 50by50 campaign.

The second breakout session included a panel discussion on energy and the potential of electric transport to offer clean and low carbon mobility. Rana Adib, the Research Coordinator of REN21 challenged the transport sector to talk to and work with energy experts. Sheila Watson highlighted both the potential of electric vehicles, but offered a reality check about the challenges involved in such a transition – including the need to ensure that these vehicles are aspirational and currently global markets for EVs show many diverse characteristics. The subsequent discussion included a question about how to translate words into real actions, given as well the need for air quality improvements. Here the rapid growth of electric two-wheelers in China potentially offers lessons and an example for others.
Saving energy makes sense – EP100 dinner

Held by candlelight in an atmospheric setting within Marrakech’s walled old city, the EP100 Unlocking Energy Productivity dinner was a high-level networking opportunity, featuring discussion and policy commentary about the role of the private sector in achieving climate goals by doing more with less energy. As one of the Sustainable Energy for All accelerator initiatives, and a sponsor of the event, GFEI had a unique platform to share with corporate guests the importance of improved vehicle fuel economy and build connections for new sustainable mobility. Sheila Watson shared with guests the importance of improved vehicle fuel economy for reducing carbon emissions, and invited them to invest in vehicle efficiency.

The three headline speakers of the event were Rachel Kyte, Chief Executive of Sustainable Energy for All, the US Energy Secretary, Dr. Ernest Moniz, and the global solar adventurer Bertrand Piccard. Rachel Kyte highlighted how energy efficiency is target 7.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which she described as the ‘largest crowdfunding effort of ideas’. She said that nothing short of a revolution in energy efficiency is needed alongside securing low carbon energy access. ‘Now is not a time to be timid’ she said, announcing that SE4ALL is launching a major conference in New York in April to continue to push this further. Dr Moniz highlighted the important role that US standards have played in improving the efficiency of the internal combustion energy and the series of ‘challenge’ programmes that the Department of Energy has instigated that promote improved efficiency, and save businesses money. Bertrand Piccard explained that his attempt to fly around the world in a solar powered plane could only be achieved by improved energy efficiency.

Climate and Clean Air Commitment at High Level Assembly

The 8th Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) High Level Assembly took place on the margins of COP22. The objective of the Assembly was to provide a focus for ministers and principals on combatting climate change and implementation of the Paris Agreement by taking advantage of the growing momentum to reduce short lived climate pollutants, including by taking the lead on black carbon reductions in the transportation sector. GFEI partners the ICCT and UNEP jointly lead the work on vehicles.

The event closed with endorsement of the CCAC’s Marrakech Communiqué. This particularly highlights the role of “adopting, maintaining, and enforcing world-class diesel fuel quality and tailpipe emissions standards for on road light and heavy-duty vehicles.” The following thirty seven CCAC countries signed a committed to develop national implementation plans outlining timelines for the nationwide introduction of such standards, if such standards are not already in place.
Working Paper 12 investigates the development of fuel consumption and other light-duty vehicle (LDV) characteristics (vehicle dimensions, weight, and technical parameters such as fuel type, engine power and displacement) for new vehicle registrations from 2005 to 2013 for more than 20 countries.

Working Paper 13 explores recent trends in the market penetration of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs), and the implications for achieving 100 million PEV sales by 2030, the ambition set by the Paris Declaration on Electro-Mobility.

Working Paper 14 estimates the fuel efficiency technology potential of heavy-duty trucks in major markets around the world, using known efficiency technologies. It does this by developing a baseline tractor-trailer and a representative rigid delivery truck for the 2015 EU, US, Brazil, India, and China fleets.

What others say about GFEI

Erik Solheim, UN Environment Executive Director
“There is an urgent need to reduce emissions from the transport sector - to improve air quality and to implement the Paris Climate agreement. The Global Fuel Economy Initiative is an important global programme that can make major contributions to achieving this. UN Environment will continue to support countries around the world with developing and implementing national action plans to introduce cleaner and more efficient vehicles.”

Secretariat
Global Fuel Economy Initiative
60 Trafalgar Square
London WC2N 5DS
United Kingdom
+44 (0)207 930 3882 (t)
+44 (0)207 930 3883 (f)

Contact us
Email: info@globalfueleconomy.org
Web: www.globalfueleconomy.org
@GlobalFuelEcon | #GFEINetwork
www.youtube.com/GlobalFuelEcon
www.flickr.com/50by50campaign