

Request for Proposals (2017-2018)

CASE STUDIES ON ENERGY ACCESS AND ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

SPONSORED BY THE GLOBAL ENERGY ACCESS NETWORK

Reward	Request	Deadline	Submission
\$300	Focused case study on an energy access challenge in a low/middle-income country	January 26, 2018*	PDF via email to gleansubmit@gmail.com

*Proposals will be accepted and awarded on a rolling basis, up to a final date of January 26. Review of proposals will begin **January 14, 2018**.

The Global Energy Access Network (GLEAN) is an interdisciplinary community of graduate and professional students at Duke University who, in their work, recognize and highlight the foundational role of access to modern energy services in enabling economic growth and sustainable development in the Global South. GLEAN invites proposals for quantitative and qualitative case studies to be included in this *Volume II Compilation*, which will be released May 2018.

Awarded case studies from last year's *Volume I Compilation* (2016-2017), for reference:
<https://dukespace.lib.duke.edu/dspace/handle/10161/15400>

Aim of Case Study Compilation

Numerous members of the Duke University have rich sources of experience, data, and information through their research, internships, field work, and projects. In general, these experiences motivate a primary purpose (such as a field experience or focused academic publication) but do not fully acknowledge additional insights that could usefully inform research or engagement by others. Further, the incentives or mechanisms for collecting and disseminating this knowledge are not always obvious. Consequently, researchers, practitioners, students and other stakeholders working on energy access often find themselves having to “reinvent the wheel” when engaging with unfamiliar contexts or communities. We aim to address this through an edited volume that collects distinct but related experiences on energy access—with a special focus on the human elements of energy—across key regions of the developing world.

Proposals

All Duke graduate/professional students, postdoctoral fellows, and undergraduates are invited to submit proposals for developing case study documents in Winter/Spring 2018. **Proposals must be one page long (500 words maximum) and must include the following:**

- Contact Information.** Applicant(s) should provide their name, department, degree program, expected graduation year, faculty advisor (if applicable), and email address.
- Case Study Context.** Briefly describe any current/prior research studies, field experience, internships, or engagement on which your case study was based. What were the overall goals of the work? What was the motivation/ research question?

What are your insights and takeaways regarding the experience?

Note that the original experience or research study need not have been focused on energy access.¹

¹ For instance, an internship at a rural health clinic in Uganda focused on gender equity, in a setting with intermittent electricity access, may offer useful insights for a subsequent investigation more closely focused on energy access.

3. **Applicant(s) relation to the work.** What was your role in the research study/ experience? Did you directly participate in the field work? If so, briefly describe the field component, and when it occurred. If not, explain who did, and when; what is your relationship to that person/team?
 - **Reporting on someone else's experience: Plan for second-party analysis**
If you were not involved with the original work associated with the proposed case study, concisely report how you are qualified to provide a suitable level of detail and insight.
4. **Key Stakeholders.** Who are the relevant stakeholders in your case study area? (For example: households, NGOs, government agencies, small and medium enterprises, village-level groups, entrepreneurs, etc.) How and to what extent will your case study contribute to their understanding or engagement with the challenge you highlight?
5. **Specific Theme(s) of Energy Use.** Define what energy thematic area your proposal engages with, including which energy service(s) (such as cooking, heating, lighting, transportation, etc.) you focus on. Proposals that address the following topics are encouraged, but submissions outside these areas are also welcome:
 - a. Adoption and use of improved household-level energy technologies
 - b. Impacts of reliance on traditional fuels (biomass and solid fuels) and technologies
 - c. Rural electrification: challenges, opportunities, and impacts
 - d. The role of household tastes, preferences, and behavior change in driving energy choices
6. **Location.** List the city/region and country, and briefly describe the setting (urban, city outskirts, village, etc.), and any relevant demographic information. The study region should be in a country that World Bank lists as a *low income* (e.g., Haiti), *lower-middle income* (e.g., India, Nicaragua, Vietnam), or *upper-middle income country* (e.g., China, Colombia). Studies in Chile (a high-income country) will also be accepted.
7. **Summary and Potential for Future Engagement.** Summarize the insights/ideas you have for follow-up engagement. Why would other Duke students, faculty, or postdoctoral fellows find this setting/ your contributions interesting?

Successful applicants will be awarded \$300 to develop a five-page (2,500 word) document on their submitted topic.

Up to five case studies will be funded.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be ranked according to the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrating relevance of the energy access challenge in the proposed setting in a thorough and insightful way (35 points)
- Demonstrating sufficient first-party knowledge or a realistic plan for second-party analysis (15 points)
- Relation to priority thematic and geographic areas (10 points)
- Quality of suggestions for follow-up engagement with relevant stakeholders (10 points)
- Overall quality, detail, and thoughtfulness of proposal (30 points)

Winter/Spring 2018 timeline for funded proposals

Once funded, successful proposals must adhere to the following timeline:

- Friday, February 23, 2018 — First draft due
- Monday, March 5, 2018 — Comments from steering committee provided
- Tuesday, March 27, 2018 — Updated draft due
- Thursday, April 5, 2018 — Comments from steering committee provided
- Thursday, April 19, 2018 — Final submission

Contact

Questions or clarifications may be addressed to: gleansubmit@gmail.com