



The 2016/2017 Access to Energy Journalism Fellowship

A global collaborative journalism project

Over one billion people in the world lack access to modern energy services, such as electricity to power their community's X-ray machines or clean-burning cookstoves to prepare their family's meals. An estimated two times that number lack reliable access. While energy poverty looks different throughout the world, it has significant impacts everywhere on health, access to basic services and economic opportunity.

What systemic issues are driving energy poverty? How are people on the ground impacted? And, perhaps most importantly, what potential solutions exist that also take climate change and other social and environmental issues into account?

These are the questions we want to explore through the Access to Energy Journalism Fellowship (AEJF). The fellowship supports journalists around the world to investigate energy access solutions and innovations in their regions.

The fellowship

The goals of the AEJF are twofold. First, it is intended to support journalism on energy access that will have an impact on local public discourse in the reporters' countries or regions. Second, it will bring stories on energy access solutions and innovations from different parts of the world together on one platform ([Power Struggle](#)), to paint a broader picture of the global landscape of energy access issues. Because energy poverty looks so different from one place to the next, this collaborative approach will add much-needed depth and nuance to the wider conversation.

Our first project had a global scope: we selected fellows from around the world to share stories of energy poverty and innovation. For this second iteration of [Power Struggle](#), we're selecting four fellows reporting in sub-Saharan Africa.

Why? Sub-Saharan Africa is the most energy-poor region in the world, with 13 per cent of the world's population and only four per cent of its energy demand. By 2040 it's expected that 530 million people will be without electricity access, especially those living in the region's rural areas. But it's not just problems: look a little harder across the region, and you'll find innovative solutions that take climate change and other social and environmental issues into account. This fellowship aims to support journalists interested in digging deep into those innovations and solutions.

Take a look at our [investigations](#) from the first round of the fellowship to get a sense of what we have covered already and areas where there is room to deepen the reporting.



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What you need to know

This fellowship is open both to staff reporters and to freelancers who have a written agreement from an editor at a publication to publish the content they produce and take part in the project. Preference will be given to reporters who have deep knowledge of the communities/topics that they plan to report on. The deliverables include:

- A 1,500-2,000-word multimedia web story (including photos, captions and videos) that deeply investigates an energy access solution or innovation.
- The fellows will produce two versions of their article: one written to suit the audience of their local publication (written to a local audience, in a local language, if relevant), and one adapted to speak to an international audience for the project platform and other participating publications (in English). If the local version of the fellow's article will be written/published in a language other than English, any cost associated with translation should be included in the budget. The Discourse Media team will work with fellows to edit their articles for quality, standards and international relevance.
- A reflection piece giving an insider glimpse into the fellow's reporting for the project.
- Social media content/promotion and an openness to other engagement tools.

The resulting content will be published in multiple places:

- Individual features will be published by each fellow's media outlet.
- Content from all fellows will be published on [Power Struggle](#), a dedicated project website and hub for energy access journalism.
- All features produced as part of the project will be available to the other media outlets taking part in the fellowship to publish, if they wish, through a content sharing agreement.



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Application procedures

As part of the application, reporters are required to submit:

- A two-page proposal detailing:
 - › Your motivation and rationale for wanting to take part in the project.
 - › The solution or innovation that you wish to investigate through your reporting, and how you will do so.
 - › Additional multimedia that would accompany the piece (e.g. data, maps, sidebars).
- A letter of support from an editor at the publication you work at, expressing commitment to publish your feature and participate in the project.
- A proposed budget. In general, this funding pool is intended to support reporting expenses beyond compensation provided by the applicant's publication. Funding is flexible and can cover a range of reporting expenses from travel to supplies. Requests for personal stipends will be considered in some cases, particularly in countries where compensation for journalism is poor. The total pool of available funding for all fellows combined is \$8,000 CAD. Please provide a budget that details all expenses that your proposed funding request would cover.
- A brief bio and CV.
- Two or three examples of your written work. Up to two multimedia examples may be included in addition to written work.

How to submit

- Applications should be emailed to reporters@discoursemedia.org.
- Application deadline is midnight Pacific Standard Time on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016.
- Fellows will be selected and contacted in mid-January 2017. Articles must be completed and submitted for publication by mid-March 2017.



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Who's involved

The AEJF is administered and produced by [Discourse Media](#) through financial support from the [Waterloo Global Science Initiative \(WGSi\)](#). WGSi's support of the project does not imply endorsement of or influence over the content produced. Discourse adheres to the highest standard of journalistic ethics, as outlined in the Canadian Association of Journalists' [ethics guidelines](#).

About Discourse Media

Discourse Media is an independent journalism company dedicated to in-depth reporting on complex issues facing Canada and the world. We are building a home for new approaches to storytelling that look beyond conflict-driven daily news cycles. We tell stories Canadians need in ways they can trust.

Discourse produces investigations, analysis and data journalism focused on matters of public importance: gender, environment, education, urban development, the economy, politics, Indigenous issues and more. We look for gaps in reporting and pursue stories that have potential for impact.

About WGSi

The Waterloo Global Science Initiative (WGSi) is a [non-profit partnership](#) between the [Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics](#) and the [University of Waterloo](#). WGSi works to promote dialogue around complex global issues and to catalyze the long-range thinking necessary to advance ideas, opportunities and strategies for a secure and sustainable future through conferences, expert panels, workshops and publications.