

Radical Energy Shift Needed To Meet 1.5°C Global Warming Target: International Energy Agency

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A radical shift in the energy sector, cutting emissions to zero by around 2040, is needed to limit the global rise in temperature at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday.

The IEA's first report on meeting the climate target aspired to in the Paris agreement, comes as more than 190 nations meet in Marrakesh, Morocco, to thrash out the details of the global deal forged last year.

"The unavoidable conclusion is that there is an urgent need for immediate radical reductions in energy sector CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions if there is to be any chance of achieving the 1.5 degree Celsius goal," the IEA said in its World Energy Outlook 2016.

Some **90% of electricity production would need to come from nuclear power plants or renewables** such as wind and solar, while **fossil fuel generation such as gas would need technology to capture and store emissions**, the report said. Under the IEA's new policies scenario, which factors in adopted measures as well as declared policy intentions, renewable electricity generation is expected to make up 37 percent of the total by 2040.

In addition, all passenger and light-commercial vehicles would need to be electric, while **trucks and buses also need to be increasingly electrified** for the 1.5 degree goal to be met, the report said. Just 1.3 million out of a global stock of nearly 1 billion cars would be powered by electricity by the end of 2016, the IEA said.

Around 100 nations have ratified the Paris agreement, which came into force on Nov. 4, and seeks to limit temperatures rises to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and "pursue efforts" to limit the rise in temperatures to 1.5 degrees. Scientists say warming must be kept below 2 degrees by the end of the century to stave off the worst effects of climate change such as floods, droughts and rising sea levels.

Low-lying nations such as the Marshall Islands and the Maldives campaigned for the 1.5 degree goal, fearing melting ice that will raise sea levels and swamp their coasts.

The recent U.S. election victory of climate change skeptic Donald Trump has cast a shadow of the future of the international climate pact. President-elect Trump has called climate change a hoax and a source in his transition team says he is seeking quick ways to pull the United States out of the 2015 Paris Agreement. A spokesman for the IEA said it did not have any comment on the impact of the U.S. election.

Earlier this week The World Meteorological Organization said average surface temperatures had already hit 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times in 2016.