The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is a coalition of businesses and trade associations in the renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas industries; it was established in 1992 by industry leaders who also attended the first Earth Summit.

The Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is a opportunity to review the advancements made in development and deployment of clean energy and the crucial role the private sector plays in realizing sustainable development objectives.

Access to reliable, affordable and clean energy is an essential foundation to sustainable development. Rio+20 will showcase the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy resources and technologies:

- Renewable energy can deliver energy access and meet new incremental demand with zero or low-carbon emission technologies.
- Supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency technologies can help communities use energy in smarter and more economically-efficient ways.
- Natural gas is a lower-carbon source of energy that is affordable, reliable and efficient.

Markets are already shifting towards a more diversified energy portfolio, with a record-breaking $280 billion invested in clean energy globally in 2011. Further policy support is needed to direct additional financing into these sectors, in the form of standards, incentives, education & awareness efforts and legal frameworks that protect investments and intellectual property rights.

BCSE will partner to meet the UN’s Sustainable Energy for All objectives of universal energy access, doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.

Rio+20 provides a platform to forge new public-private partnerships, share knowledge and lessons learned on policy tools, and showcase clean energy technology solutions.

Pescando com Redes 3G (Fishing with 3G Nets)
Fishing is one of the primary economic activities in Northeastern Brazil. Many families depend on it for their livelihood. However, in some areas the industry has suffered from over-fishing, lack of investment, and old infrastructure. As a worldwide leader in 3G and next-generation mobile technologies, Qualcomm, through its Wireless Reach™ initiative, brings wireless technology to underserved communities in order to foster entrepreneurship, enhance delivery of healthcare and improve environmental sustainability.

Fishing with 3G Nets is a new system that integrates mobile and web-based applications with 3G handheld devices (using Qualcomm chips) to support sustainable fishing practices, business operations and to deliver real-time market information to participating community members in Santa Cruz Cabrália, Bahia, Brazil.

Participants can wirelessly monitor and communicate information on water conditions. Photo courtesy of Qualcomm.
Saving Energy, Creating Jobs, Transforming Buildings

A part of LEGO®’s “Planet Promise” is to reduce energy usage throughout its manufacturing process. A new LEGO® molding facility located in Ciénega de Flores, Nuevo León, Mexico, utilizes advanced roofing technology to reduce peak energy demand and improve the local climate condition. The facility’s 414,000 square foot roof features 387 skylights to illuminate the factory floor during daytime operations, while reducing the electricity demand of lighting systems. A climate-appropriate cool roof also lessens demand on the building’s cooling load and mitigates the heat island effect. The LEGO® facility has been recognized by RoofPoint™, a new environmental roof rating system by the Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing, for its environmental leadership.

Retailers are also seeing the value in creating modern, energy efficient and high-quality stores. Falabella, the largest department store chain in Latin America is working with Johnson Controls to achieve a LEED® Volume Build Prototype Certification for its locations across Latin America. Between 2011 and 2015, the company aims to invest $3.51 billion to open 215 new stores and 16 new shopping malls. Johnson Controls is working with Falabella to ensure its stores operate efficiently while minimizing environmental impact through use of renewable energy, natural ventilation, photovoltaic panels to provide electricity for security lighting, solar water heaters, daylighting, water efficiency measures, highly efficient HVAC systems, fully integrated building systems control and extensive training to operations staff.

A Cross-Border Wind Partnership

Partnerships can emerge between countries to match supply and demand, especially in renewable energy. Sempra Energy’s Energía Sierra Juárez project in Baja California, Mexico proposes to tap into one of the region’s strongest wind resources to generate a new supply of clean energy for the state of California in the US and economic development in Mexico. Construction on the first phase of the installation is expected to begin in 2013 and when completed in 2014 will generate up to 156 megawatts or enough power for approximately 65,000 average homes.

The transmission line, dedicated to renewable power, requires international cooperation and special cross-border permitting, but exemplifies how demand created by California’s renewable energy portfolio standard can drive private investment into new markets. Future phases of this groundbreaking wind project, which could generate an additional 1,000 megawatts, could provide clean power to utilities in the US or Mexico.

About the BCSE

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) represents a broad portfolio of existing clean energy business sectors, including renewable energy, supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency, natural gas and electric utilities in North America. The Council is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and was formed by industry leaders after the first Earth Summit in 1992. For more information, please visit http://www.bcse.org.