Reducing Fossil Fuel Reliance: Driving Climate Action and Business Continuity

Climate change is reshaping business competitiveness and the global energy transition. Meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement requires action not only by governments but also by companies investing in cleaner energy, efficiency, resource recovery and credible greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Corporate climate commitments matter most when they translate into measurable changes in business operations and supply chains. In Pakistan, rising energy costs, fossil fuel dependence and climate-related disruptions are strengthening the business case for low-carbon innovation. Companies can improve resilience and operational efficiency by adopting renewable energy, alternative fuels, resource-efficient technologies and waste-to-energy solutions. Yet high upfront costs, financing constraints, technical capacity and regulatory uncertainty remain barriers to wider uptake.

Biogas presents one promising pathway. Through anaerobic digestion, suitable organic residues and wastewater can generate renewable gas that may substitute conventional fuels while supporting circular economy objectives. Its feasibility depends on feedstock quantity and quality, plant design, economics, safety and robust emissions accounting. Biomass combustion and biogas production are different technologies and should be distinguished in reporting by companies.

PepsiCo Pakistan offers a relevant example of business-led cleaner energy investment. Under its PepsiCo Positive (pep+) agenda, the company is focused on renewable energy, resource efficiency and reduced operational emissions. Publicly documented activities include solar investments, a biomass energy system at its Sundar facility and biological wastewater treatment. PepsiCo has also implemented biogas or biomethane projects internationally, demonstrating how food processing residues may be converted into useful energy.

Against this backdrop, this panel will bring together policymakers, corporate leaders, clean energy experts and financing institutions to explore how the private sector can turn climate ambition into investment and measurable emissions reductions. The session will consider PepsiCo Pakistan's cleaner energy experience alongside the wider potential for biogas, renewable energy and circular solutions across the corporate sector. Specifically, it will look at how to:

- Advance private sector leadership by identifying pathways from voluntary climate pledges to measurable emissions reduction and operational transformation.
- Highlight practical innovation, drawing on PepsiCo Pakistan's documented renewable energy and biomass investments and discussing the potential of biogas and waste-to-energy technologies.
- Examine the business case for alternative energy, energy efficiency and resource recovery in lowering fuel dependence and improving business resilience.
- Identify financial, policy and regulatory barriers to investment in low carbon technologies and potential measures to overcome them.

- Encourage Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) among government, businesses, financiers and technology providers to replicate viable solutions.

Organisers:

Ms Zainab Naeem, Associate Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
Email: zainabnaeem@sdpi.org

Mr Ihtisham Ul Haq, Research Assistant, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
Email: ihtisham_gru@sdpi.org