

Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Cooling in Rwanda

08 November 2017

Background: UN Environment was selected by the [Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program](#) (K-CEP) to support capacity building and the development of financial mechanisms and policies for energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling products in Rwanda. K-CEP is a philanthropic programme that aims to advance the [Kigali Amendment](#) of the Montreal Protocol. The number of refrigerators in the country is expected to increase from approximately 100,000 in 2015 to over one million in 2030. Room air conditioners are likewise expected to grow, from 12,000 today to over 180,000 by 2030.

Objective: Transition the national market for refrigerators and air conditioners (AC) toward energy-efficient and climate-friendly products that save consumers and businesses money on utility bills, reduce electricity waste, enable greater comfort and productivity for building occupants, advance economic development priorities for the government, and mitigate pollution and greenhouse gas impacts on the planet.

Approach: Provide technical support, capacity building, high-profile recognition, and convening capacity to assist:

- Businesses with a new financial mechanism that will be tailored to help with purchasing energy-efficient and climate-friendly products for their facilities; and
- Energy and environment officials with developing and implementing a national cooling strategy, model policies, a product registration system, and an awareness campaign.

Activities:

1. Conduct a market assessment of residential refrigerators, commercial refrigerators and room air conditioners. Then convene stakeholders to draft a national strategy for transitioning to energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling products. Seek official endorsement for the strategy once it has been vetted with appropriate officials and finalised. Help the government to promote the strategy.

Schedule: Q1 2018 – Q4 2018. Content will include:

- a roadmap and timetable to adopt minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for residential refrigerators, commercial refrigerators, and room air conditioners;
 - links to the country's existing energy policies, refrigerant transition plan, Nationally Determined Contribution, etc.;
 - an overview of the potential to use financial mechanisms to address first cost barriers;
 - recommendation on the use of a national data collection system; and
 - references to addressing cooling demand through building codes, cool roofs, shading, etc.;
2. Draft MEPS for Rwanda on residential refrigerators and room air conditioners for adoption by the national government. Recommend a labeling scheme based on an assessment of local needs and infrastructure and existing international best practices. Schedule: Q2 2018 – Q3 2019.
3. Provide technical support to pilot a national data collection system for cooling products. Assist in adapting a financial mechanism for use in Rwanda that helps buyers overcome barriers to purchasing energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling products. Schedule: Q3 2018 – Q2 2019.
4. Develop and help implement awareness campaigns to engage Rwandan stakeholders and to globally promote the country's progress. Provide capacity building for officials and practitioners on recommended approaches for verifying product performance and enforcing MEPS and labelling requirements. Schedule: Q4 2018 – Q4 2019

Participants:

- [UN Environment](#): Overall lead for the project, coordinated with UN office in Nairobi and leveraging expertise and resources from across the organisation
- Rwandan Energy, Ozone and other officials: offer strategic guidance, feedback on draft content, help convene meetings, and champion the project
- [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#): technical advisor on cooling strategy and policies
- [Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy \(BASE\)](#): technical advisor for the financial mechanism
- Additional potential collaborators: [EACREEE](#), [African Development Bank](#), and/or others

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