

United for Efficiency (U4E) is a global initiative supporting developing and emerging economies switch to energy-efficient lighting, appliances and equipment. This public-private partnership is convened by the United Nations Environment Programme and brings together a range of stakeholders who are united in a common cause to improve energy efficiency in developing and emerging economies.

YOUR QUARTERLY CONNECTION TO HIGH-EFFICIENCY PRODUCTS | Vol. 4, Issue 2



## NEWSLETTER 2021

### Welcome the July 2021 newsletter

The last three months have seen the official launch of several U4E projects and resources and participation in high profile events as a call to action towards a more sustainable and [net zero emission](#) future. This newsletter provides a digest of progress and upcoming developments.

### News

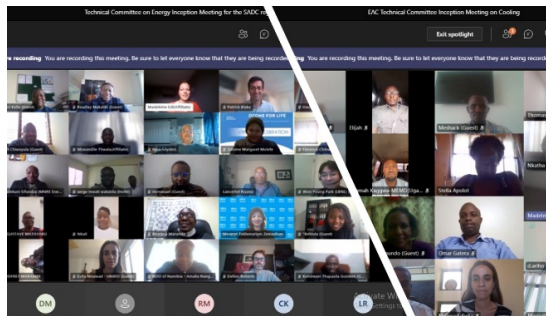
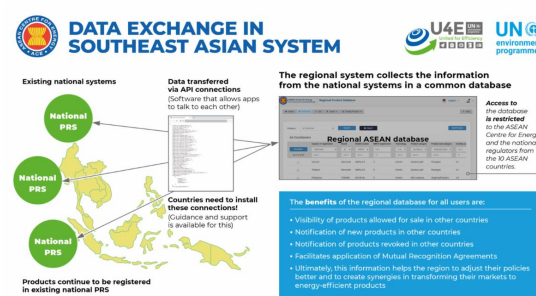


In June 2021, U4E initiated discussions on a *Regional Compact for Higher Performance 'Eco-Efficient' Lighting, Appliances and Equipment for All* in a side event to the [High-level Energy Dialogue Ministerial Thematic Forums](#).

The event explored harmonised standards and supporting policies to ramp-up the transition to eco-efficient

lighting, appliances and equipment. [More details and the recording of the event](#) are available on the U4E website.

Progress towards the harmonisation of ASEAN member states' around energy-efficient and climate-friendly appliance policies achieved a significant milestone with the launch of the new regional product database. U4E and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) hosted a virtual workshop in April, *Realizing the Shift of ASEAN's Markets to Energy-efficient and Climate -friendly Appliances*, as the launch event. By pooling information and giving visibility to the products that are allowed for sale, and prohibited, in ASEAN countries, the database will facilitate application of mutual recognition agreements and, ultimately, help the region to adjust their policies better and to create synergies in transforming their markets to energy-efficient products. The database is accessible to ACE and national regulators from all 10 ASEAN countries.



The East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (EACREEE), SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), and U4E-led project on harmonized regional minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for cooling products advanced to a critical new phase this

quarter with the *convening of the inception workshops for the Technical Committees* from each region. These committees will play a vital role in guiding the development of regional recommendations and subsequent national-level implementation based on the unique considerations of each market.

Two *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*-funded national lighting projects took significant steps in this period. The official start of the *Leapfrogging Tunisia's Lighting Market to High Efficiency Technologies* project was marked by the first meeting of the Steering Committee by videoconference on 27 May 2021, and the wider stakeholder group were invited to a formal inception workshop on 7

June 2021. The *Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting project in Bolivia* was given a boost at a high-profile inception workshop in La Paz where the Minister of Hydrocarbons and Energies, Lic. Franklin Molina Ortiz and the Vice Minister of Electricity and Alternative Energies, Ing. José Maria S. Romay Bortolini, voiced their support for the project.

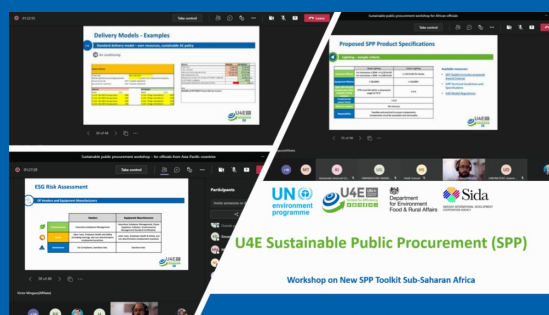




In April 2021, Senegal joined [Ghana](#) and [Rwanda](#) in offering a novel financial mechanism to make energy-efficient and environmentally friendly refrigerators and air conditioners more widely accessible and affordable. The [ECOWAS Refrigerators and Air](#)

[Conditioners Initiative \(ECOFRIDGES\) in Senegal](#) is coordinated by U4E and the Agency for the Economy and the Control of Energy (AEME) and the Directorate of the Environment and Classified Establishments (DEEC), in collaboration with Senelec (electric utility), La Banque Agricole (as a partner bank), and Electronic Corp and SENFROID (as cooling equipment providers) to provide low interest financing for highly energy-efficient and climate-friendly refrigerators and air conditioners through a green credit that is paid back on electricity bills.

The process whereby public sector organisations can leverage their purchasing power to generate demand for sustainable products and services was showcased in a series of U4E hosted workshops on [Sustainable Public Procurement \(SPP\) for Lighting and Cooling Appliances](#) in June 2021. The events gathered together government officials, regional organizational representatives and other stakeholders in the Sub-Saharan and Asia-Pacific regions, to share their experiences on procurement modalities, technologies, and assessment criteria. U4E will also provide technical assistance to several governments that participated in the workshops to pilot SPP best practices, and then share their findings to encourage broader uptake of successful approaches.



In a [peer reviewed article published in Energy Research & Social Science in June 2021](#), U4E contributed to the discussion on how a global governance architecture for cooling efficiency and alternative refrigerants can ensure the climate benefits of the Montreal Protocol. Based on decades of experience from national energy-

efficiency programmes, along with the Montreal Protocol's refrigerant assistance program, the major elements of the recommended energy-efficiency governance architecture include an internationally harmonized energy-efficiency standards programme, product certification and registration, infrastructure for testing energy-efficiency performance, and an evaluation, measurement and verification strategy.



In May 2021, U4E was pleased to take part in a webinar, *Pathways to Net-zero Cold-chains: An industry webinar to discuss collaborations to steer the future of cold-chains*, featuring the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-Chain (ACES) and other initiatives working towards more sustainable cooling and cold chain management. A [recording of the webinar](#) is available on the Institute of Refrigeration website.



## New Resources & Tools



Sustainable public procurement is a tool to leverage the purchasing power of governments to generate demand for sustainable products and services. New U4E publications offer guidance on [implementation](#) and [technical specification](#) of energy-efficient and climate-friendly products.

The [Regional EAC-SADC Project on Energy Efficient Cooling Appliances](#) project is funded by the [GEF](#), [K-CEP](#) and the [UK Government \(Defra\)](#) and aims to develop a policy framework for energy-efficient refrigerators and air conditioners, with the ultimate goal to implement MEPS and labelling for these products in both regions. The cooling market assessment and technical notes on air conditioners and refrigerators for the regions which provide the foundation for the project are now [available](#).



New factsheets are now available for four U4E projects – [ECOFRIDGES](#), [Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting in Bolivia](#), [Energy-efficient and Climate-friendly Cooling in Nigeria](#) and [Leapfrogging Tunisia's Lighting Market to High Efficiency Technologies](#).

## Partner Spotlight



The African Energy Commission (AFREC) is a specialized agency of the African Union in charge of developing, coordinating and harmonizing the energy policies with an objective of protection, conservation, development,

rational exploitation, commercialization and integration of energy resources on the African continent. U4E and AFREC are jointly leading the [African Energy Efficiency Program \[AEEP\]](#) which aims to foster energy efficiency and the harmonization of standards to achieve the regional market integration for some of the most energy consuming products, such as lighting, cooling appliances and electrical equipment. Through a strategic integrated policy approach at the continental level, AEEP provides support for regional cooperation and policy coordination working towards the development and adoption of harmonized minimum energy performance standards and market monitoring, verification and enforcement systems, among other policies, across the five regions and countries, to significantly reduce final energy demand on the continent and increase electricity access, competitiveness, energy security and economic development.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**5-7 JULY 2021**

VEF Virtual Expo

**6-9 JULY 2021**

Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021

- 7 July 2021, 11:00 – 12:30 JST, *Imagining A Sustainable Energy Future by 2050*
- 7 July 2021, 12:30 – 14:00 JST, *Technology Innovations and Policies for Sustainable Energy to Achieve Net Zero Emissions*
- 7 July 2021, 14:00 – 15:00 JST, *Financing the Sustainable Energy Transition*

**7 JULY 2021**

Cool-IT-up! Accelerating sustainable cooling in the era of industry 4.0

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

Africa Climate Week 2021

For further details on any of these events, please email us at [unep-u4e@un.org](mailto:unep-u4e@un.org).

With thanks to our funders



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