



Welcome to the May 2023 newsletter

The U4E newsletter provides a digest of the progress and upcoming developments of U4E and its partners. During the last quarter, we continued to highlight the key role of energy efficiency in mitigating climate change through our participation at third party events, Ministerial endorsement of our work on several projects, and new funding to support our work in Africa.

News



As part of advancing the readiness of the [Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-Chain \(ACES\)](#) headquarters at the Rubirizi campus in Rwanda and SPOKES (Specialized Outreach and Knowledge Establishments) in Kenya and beyond, key stakeholders [convened in the UK](#) in March to consider immediate actions to

operationalize the centre and strengthen strategic networks with government officials, industry, and academia. To view a short highlights video of the visit, click [here](#).

In further good news for the Centre, on 20 April 2023, a reception was held at the UK Prime Minister's office at No.10 Downing Street to recognize the important work of ACES and that of climate scientists serving on the Independent Assessment Panels for the



UN Montreal Protocol. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP [announced a further £4 million for the Centre](#) to support its work in equipping farmers, healthcare workers and technicians to implement more climate friendly and energy-efficient cooling. The funding has been made available as part of the UK Government's effort to drive down emissions of harmful hydrofluorocarbons generated by outdated air conditioning units, cooling refrigeration and cold supply chains.



Two new [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\) Readiness](#) projects got underway during this period. The *National Framework for Leapfrogging to Energy Efficient and Climate Friendly Air Conditioners and Refrigerators in The Gambia* project aims to develop an integrated policy strategy that results in a legislative framework for energy-efficient air conditioners and refrigerators in The Gambia. The project will catalyze broader market transformation for energy efficiency in The Gambia and will ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project will run for two years, with UNEP U4E as the executing agency, in collaboration with the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MOPE) as the focal ministry and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MOFEA) as the National Designated Authority.

In Rwanda, the GCF readiness funding gives a boost to the existing [Rwanda Cooling Initiative](#) which, from 2019, saw the development of Rwanda's National Cooling Strategy with support from UNEP U4E. It is also enabling the development of the first ACES SPOKE in rural Rwanda. The *Enabling Deployment of Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Cooling* project aims to help the country leapfrog to energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling and cold chain solutions by enhancing the capacities of stakeholders, developing an implementation framework for Minimum Energy Performance Standards and labels for room air conditioners and refrigerators, developing strategies for attracting investment and enhancing knowledge with consumers and other stakeholders, implementing a product registration system, and other supporting actions.



In news from one of our founding partners, the International Copper Association (ICA) launched its decarbonization roadmap, [Copper - The Pathway to Net Zero](#), in March. The Pathway outlines ICA members' commitment to decarbonizing the production of copper —a key raw

material critical to the energy transition— and presents strategies for bringing the carbon footprint as close as possible to net zero by 2050 for copper mining, smelting, refining and recycling. In a [video address](#) recorded for the launch event, Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of UNEP, praised the ICA for embracing the need for decarbonization, further stating, “*To hit net zero by 2050, the industry needs short term action and milestones, including those recommended in Copper – The Pathway to Net Zero. Companies need to disclose progress, show concrete actions, and provide transparent reporting.*”

Events



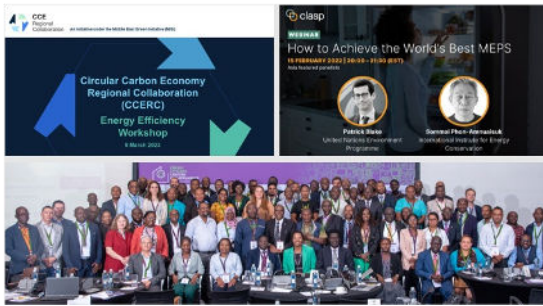
The importance of energy efficiency as one of the most cost-effective means of providing energy security, increasing economic productivity, reducing air pollution and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions was recognised by Nigeria’s Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Adeleke Olonmimbe Mamora, when he inaugurated the

National Technical Committee for the [Clean Cooling Collaborative](#)–funded [Scaling Up Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Cooling in Nigeria’s NDC Revision](#) project at a [Stakeholder Consultation Workshop](#) held in Abuja on 30 March 2023. The project’s objective is to promote the use of energy-efficient air conditioners with low global warming potential refrigerants in public, residential and commercial buildings in Nigeria. It is being implemented by the Energy Commission of Nigeria, the UNEP Africa Office and UNEP U4E and is working in close collaboration with a range of key stakeholders. As well as inaugurating the National Technical Committee, the workshop provided a forum for these stakeholders to discuss the key components of the project, the implementation strategies and their strategic roles in the entire implementation process.

In April, UNEP U4E’s model regulation guidelines were featured in a special session in the Energy Efficiency in Appliances and Equipment stream of the in [IEA Energy Efficiency Policy Training Week](#). In the first face-to-face training in three years, the training brought together over 120 policymakers



and energy professionals from more than 40 countries to develop expertise in energy efficiency policy making and underline the important role it can play in emerging and developing economies. Putting the training into context, IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol stated, “*All countries have different energy mixes, and different economic and social priorities, but one thing they all have in common is room to improve energy efficiency. It needs to be treated as the very first fuel, as it makes energy more affordable while supporting energy security and climate change objectives.*”



In addition, UNEP U4E also contributed to other third party events, including moderating the Clean Cooling Session at the annual [EELA Stakeholder Forum](#); describing, at CLASP's How to Achieve the [World's Best MEPS](#) webinar, how UNEP U4E's model regulation guidelines provided a benchmark for assessing the

stringency of six key products standards across ten economies and a template to facilitate the market transition to energy efficient lighting, appliances and equipment in developing countries and emerging economies; and providing an introduction to our work at the first Circular Carbon Economy Regional Collaboration workshop, which focused on energy efficiency.

Capacity Building



In January 2023, UNEP U4E ran its first ever commercial refrigeration technical [study tour](#) —for key stakeholders in the [GCF Readiness Programme](#)—funded, [Leapfrogging to Energy-Efficient and Climate Friendly Commercial Refrigerating Appliances in Brazil](#), project, who spent three days at the

Re/genT testing laboratory in the Netherlands. The study tour was designed to increase the familiarity of testing laboratory personnel, local manufacturers, national laboratories and key public institutions, with the testing standards that will be used as reference for the upcoming new energy efficiency policies in Brazil: ISO 23953: Refrigerated display cabinets, ISO 22043: Ice-cream freezers, ISO 22044: Beverage coolers.

Resources



U 4 E ' s [Green Public Procurement Technical Guidelines and Specifications for Energy-Efficient lighting](#), which provide step-by-step advice on building sustainability and best technical criteria for lighting into public procurement activities, are now available in Spanish.

Look out for the publication of the forthcoming, *Guidelines on Harmonized System Customs Codes and National Statistical Codes for Energy-Efficient Lighting*. These codes

are a very effective means for monitoring trade statistics of commodities associated with energy efficient lighting regulations in a country and provide a valuable resource for monitoring, reporting and verification activities for regulatory programmes. However, as markets transition to LED technology-based lighting products, monitoring commodities based on these codes has become more complex. This guideline supports policymakers in understanding these codes and how they can be used to maximise the effectiveness of monitoring, reporting and verification activities.



Partner Spotlight



The [Southern African Development Community \(SADC\) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency \(SACREEE\)](#) was established by the SADC Member States in 2015 to contribute towards increased access to modern energy services and improved energy security across the SADC Region through the promotion of market-based uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and energy services. SACREEE is the focal point for the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and NDCs in SADC, and has been working with U4E to further the transition of markets in the region to energy efficient products for many years. The U4E-SACREEE collaboration includes the regional Minimum Energy Performance Standards for air conditioners and residential refrigerators, which are nearing finalization. SACREEE is implementing the Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) Project with UNIDO with financial support from Sida. U4E, SACREEE and UNIDO leveraged on the technical structures established under EELA, as well as in-kind support from the EELA project, to co-sponsor the development of MEPS for cooling appliances.

UPCOMING EVENTS

6–8 JUNE 2023

[IEA 8th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency Versailles, France](#)

7–8 JUNE 2023

[Global Energy Transition 2023, New York City, USA](#)

[Featuring U4E/UNEP CCC breakfast workshop, Unlocking Energy Efficiency Investment: The role of Standards, on 8 June 2023](#)

22–26 AUGUST 2023

[Seventh GEF Assembly, Vancouver, Canada](#)

4–6 SEPTEMBER 2023

African Climate Action Summit, Nairobi, Kenya

4–8 SEPTEMBER 2023

Africa Climate Week (ACW 2023), Nairobi, Kenya

9–12 OCTOBER 2023

Middle East and North Africa Climate Week (MENACW 2023), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

23–27 OCTOBER 2023

Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW 2023), Panama City, Panama

30 NOVEMBER – 12 DECEMBER 2023

COP28, Dubai, UAE

AUTUMN 2023

Formal opening of the ACES Headquarters, Autumn 2023, Kigali, Rwanda

For further details on any of these events, please email us at unep-u4e@un.org.

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

With thanks to our funders



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