



## Welcome to the August 2023 newsletter

The U4E newsletter provides a digest of the progress and upcoming developments of U4E and its partners. During the last quarter, we were pleased to see progress towards implementation of MEPS for lighting and cooling products in several partner countries, along with good opportunities for adding our voice to the message on the importance of energy efficiency and sharing our resources.

### News



In May 2023, the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) officially announced a new [compulsory Minimum Energy Performance Standards \(MEPS\) for lighting in South Africa](#), which will effectively ban all but energy-efficient light emitting diode (LED) lamps for

general service lighting. The development of these MEPS was led by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and approved by DTIC and was supported by a GEF-funded project, *Market Transformation through Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling of Appliances in South Africa*, and CLASP, a U4E partner, provided additional technical expertise to the country. U4E participated as a reviewer to the MEPS and much of the final specification is directly based on U4E's [Model Regulation Guidelines](#) for General Service Lamps (2021).

The new [Clean Cooling Collaborative](#)-funded ASEAN Cool Initiative aims to accelerate the implementation of the

[ASEAN Regional Policy Roadmap for Energy Efficient Room Air Conditioners](#)

by providing technical assistance and capacity building for MEPS and labels in the region. It will be implemented by the [ASEAN Centre for Energy](#) (ACE) across the region, with support from U4E, [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#) (LBNL) and the [International](#)



[Institute for Energy Conservation](#) (IIEC). Across the ASEAN region, the project will accelerate the adoption of the ASEAN regional roadmap on air conditioners to enable countries to go straight to the more ambitious Regional Phase II levels specified in the roadmap. With Singapore becoming the first ASEAN country in the ASEAN region to adopt this level of MEPS in March, the initiative took another step forward in June, with a [kick-off meeting at the Energy Commission](#) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to agree the detailed activities to be undertaken in Malaysia under the project.



In June, the Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy and the U4E held the last meeting of the [Leapfrogging to Energy-efficient and Climate-friendly Commercial Refrigerating Appliances in Brazil](#) project, with all the members of the Policy Working Group. The meeting was held at the Electric Energy Research

Center (CEPEL) in Rio de Janeiro on 14–15 June 2023 to present a summary of the project results and discuss how move forward with the development of technical energy efficiency regulations, including MEPS and labels, for commercial refrigerators. The study identified that there are approximately 7 million commercial refrigeration units, such as refrigerated display cabinets, beverage coolers and ice cream freezers, installed in Brazil's commercial sector and estimated that technical energy efficiency regulations for these products could generate savings of 2.4 TWh per year, after 10 years of implementation, equivalent to an emissions reduction of about 1.1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year.

At an [inception workshop](#) in Kigali at the end of May, the [Rwanda Environment Management Authority](#) and U4E, launched the [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\) Readiness Project](#) which will contribute to the implementation of appliance MEPS and labels, a product registration system, and related aspects of the [Rwanda Cooling Initiative](#) (R-COOL), as well as operationalisation of the first Rwandan SPOKE (Specialized Outreach and Knowledge Establishment) of the [Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-Chain](#) (ACES).







In July, more than 100 farmers, fishers and community leaders from across Rwanda joined sustainable cooling experts to [begin innovative training](#) that marked the launch of the flagship training and knowledge building programme from ACES. Participants learnt how clean-cold technology can

revolutionize business opportunities and health by reducing food losses in the supply chain. ACES experts, in partnership with the Postharvest Education Foundation and Global Cold Chain Alliance, conducted the training in Rubavu District with farmers, and in Karongi District with fishers, and hosted workshops in Kigali with financiers, NGOs, policymakers and farmers organizations.

In other news from U4E's cold chain portfolio, the new ACES sister Centre of Excellence in [Telangana](#) was launched in August with an aim to accelerate the deployment of sustainable refrigeration solutions for vaccine and food supplies across India.



## Events



In June 2023, a workshop facilitated by U4E and [UNEP CCC](#) as part of the Connect Agenda at [Global Energy Transition 2023](#) explored the role of efficiency investment in driving the energy transition forward. It discussed what is there to gain for private sectors from these investments, how market

participants can establish an effective mechanism for driving up energy-efficient products and practices by incorporating energy efficiency performance metrics into existing frameworks and how efficiency-conscious ESG strategies will increase a company's sustainability performance rating and attract investment. It also introduced participants to UNEP resources such as the UNEP CCC brief, [Energy Efficiency in Green Finance Taxonomies](#), and U4E's [Country Savings Assessments](#) and [Model Regulation Guidelines](#).

In July, U4E hosted a webinar with experts from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and representatives from Chile and the Government of Brazil to explain the [Model Regulation Guidelines for Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Commercial](#)



[Refrigeration Equipment](#) and provide insights on the lessons learned in putting them into practice. The guidelines offer a foundation for setting energy efficiency, functional performance, and refrigerant requirements, and other considerations such as definitions, scope of coverage and test procedures based on international best practices. This is particularly useful in the commercial refrigeration sector where few developing and emerging economies already have regulations and the large range of product types and technologies used make development of robust national policies challenging.



During a busy June, U4E also contributed to several third-party events. At the [Transitioning to Mercury-Free Lighting in Asia-Pacific Countries](#) workshop, convened by the UNEP [Global Mercury Partnership](#) to highlight the energy efficiency co-benefits of transitioning to mercury-free lighting, U4E experts

presented a global overview of the lighting supply chain, and advances in lighting technology, including the global capacity of manufacturers to support an LED transition by as early as 2025. On the implementation side, they introduced U4E's [integrated policy approach](#) for market transformation as a means to phase out mercury-based lighting, and the tools it has available to support the phase-out of mercury-based lamps.

Furthering its objective to accelerate the transition towards energy efficient economies worldwide, [Mission Efficiency](#) hosted two charettes in June –on financing and communications– which U4E attended as partners in the coalition. The former brought together the world's finance community and the projects and initiatives that are at the forefront of delivering the transition towards energy efficiency, while the Communications Charrette explored how to deepen engagement and coordination to support efforts to elevate energy efficiency in personal, national and global agendas, triggering new and more ambitious commitments, actions and goals.



We were also pleased to add our voice to the energy efficiency message at the IEA Energy Efficiency Conference in Paris as part of the deep dive discussion on driving ambition using cooling and refrigeration standards and regulation at the SEAD (Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment) side event.

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## Resources





The [World Customs Organization \(WCO\) Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System](#) provides a very effective means for monitoring trade statistics of commodities associated with energy efficient lighting regulations in a country and provides 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. U4E's new [Guidelines on Harmonized System Customs Codes and National Statistical Codes for Energy-Efficient Lighting](#), supports policymakers in understanding these codes and how they can be used to maximise the effectiveness of monitoring, reporting and verification activities.

U4E's [Green Public Procurement Technical Guidelines and Specifications for Energy-efficient Lighting](#) provide a step-by-step approach on how to apply sustainability and current best technical criteria for lighting products in accordance with best international regulatory, social and environmental



practices, and introduce the rationale to be adopted by procurement practitioners when selecting among a set of products. In July, the guidelines were updated to include specifications for photovoltaic solar street lighting, alongside those for all other street lighting luminaires ranging from highway lighting to small street lighting, and all office lighting luminaires or sources including LED luminaires and LED tubes. The updated guidelines are available in both English and Spanish.



Read about the new GCF-funded [Leapfrogging to Energy Efficient and Climate Friendly Air Conditioners and Refrigerators in The Gambia](#) project in our new factsheet. The project aims to develop an integrated policy approach to transform the national market to high efficiency room air conditioners and

residential refrigerators, thereby reducing electricity demand and the related greenhouse gas emissions. This transition could save consumers in The Gambia USD 10.7 million in annual electricity costs in 2040, with an associated reduction of 28.5 thousand tonnes in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which is the equivalent of taking around 16 thousand cars off the road.

Find out more about the new [Clean Cooling Collaborative](#)-funded ASEAN Cool Initiative in the project [factsheet](#)

published this month.



## Partner Spotlight



# BERKELEY LAB

Founded in 1931 on the belief that the biggest scientific challenges are best addressed by teams, [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#) and its scientists have been recognized with 16 Nobel Prizes. Today, Berkeley Lab researchers develop sustainable energy and environmental solutions, create useful new materials, advance the frontiers of computing, and probe the mysteries of life, matter, and the universe. Scientists worldwide rely on the Lab's facilities for their discovery science. Berkeley Lab is a multi-programme national laboratory managed by the University of California for the US Department of Energy's Office of Science. Berkeley Lab's [Global Cooling Efficiency Program](#) has worked closely with U4E since 2019 and has been lead author of the U4E model regulation guidelines for air conditioners and residential and commercial refrigeration equipment. The Lab is currently working on the analysis of the data for the forthcoming *Model Quality and Performance Guidelines for Off-Grid Refrigerating Appliances* and supporting deployment of the Model Regulations in regions such as Southeast Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Founded in 1931 on the belief that the biggest scientific challenges are best addressed by teams, [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#) and its scientists have been recognized with 16 Nobel Prizes. Today, Berkeley Lab researchers develop sustainable energy and

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**4–6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

[African Climate Summit 2023](#), Nairobi, Kenya

**4–8 SEPTEMBER 2023**

[Africa Climate Week \(ACW 2023\)](#), Nairobi, Kenya

**25–26 SEPTEMBER 2023**

[Joint Europe & Central Asia and West Asia Twinning Workshop](#), Amman, Jordan

**8–12 OCTOBER 2023**

[Middle East and North Africa Climate Week \(MENACW 2023\)](#), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**22 OCTOBER 2023**

[Ozone Secretariat Workshop on Energy Efficiency](#), Nairobi, Kenya

*In conjunction with the 35th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP)*

**23–27 OCTOBER 2023**

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

**13–17 NOVEMBER 2023**

Asia–Pacific Climate Week (APCW 2023), Johor Bahru, Malaysia

**14–15 NOVEMBER 2023**

ASEAN Cool Initiative regional meeting, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

**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](mailto: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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