



Welcome to the November 2023 newsletter

The U4E newsletter provides a digest of the progress and upcoming developments of U4E and its partners. During the last quarter, much of our focus was on project-related capacity building workshops and other events, and we were pleased to see progress from partners on commitment tracking projects and convention agreements.

Project news



In September, U4E was pleased to take part in the first of a new series of Twinning Workshops, convened by UNEP OzonAction and funded through the Montreal Protocol's OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme, which will continue globally into 2024.

The *[Joint Europe, Central Asia and West Asia Twinning Workshop for Montreal Protocol Officers, National Energy-Efficiency Policymakers and Financial Mechanism Focal Points](#)*, built on the success of the OzonAction and U4E Twinning Workshops that were carried out in 2018 and 2019 with funding from the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (now the *[Clean Cooling Collaborative](#)*). The objective of the workshops is to facilitate the twinning of National Ozone Officers, energy efficiency policymakers, and financial mechanism focal points to share information on the co-benefits of HFC reduction and increased energy efficiency and encourage a collaborative approach to tackling these issues.

In parallel with the Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol,

the Ozone Secretariat hosted a [Workshop on Energy Efficiency](#) to share information, experiences and lessons learned on enabling enhanced access and facilitating the transition to energy efficient and low- or zero-global-warming-potential technologies and to assess challenges related to ways of improving availability and accessibility to these alternatives during the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. U4E's Brian Holuj was pleased to announce a new [report and key lessons from financial mechanisms](#) supporting sustainable cooling in Africa as well as to launch new U4E guidelines on [off-grid refrigerating appliances](#) and [ceiling fans](#).



At the start of October, a [national capacity-building workshop](#) in Banjul marked the formal start of the [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\) Readiness Programme](#)-funded Leapfrogging to Energy-Efficient and Climate Friendly Air Conditioners and Refrigerators in The Gambia project. It provided the first opportunity to convene the broad range of stakeholders involved and provided capacity-building training to ensure that policymakers and relevant stakeholders fully understand the context of energy efficiency policy measures for air conditioning and refrigeration options, including MEPS, labelling, market compliance, and public awareness, as well as their impact on the environment. A separate session for a more strategically focused audience also provided an update on the initial activities of the project and the way forward.

Later in the month, U4E's Patrick Blake provided a briefing to the [Committee of Permanent Representatives](#) on the U4E Country Savings Assessments. The presentation highlighted key finding from the U4E Country Savings Assessments, showing savings opportunity for energy-efficient products, and provided examples of the actions that governments can take. There was good engagement from the members, with numerous questions and we look forward to liaising with these countries on future project.



CPR Briefing on United for Efficiency
Country Saving Assessments: Energy-Efficient and Climate
Friendly Appliances and Equipment

Patrick Blake, Programme Management Officer
UNEP-United for Efficiency
5 October 2023

October also saw the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES) [Vaccine Symposium](#) and [Forum](#). This dynamic forum on the future of cooling and cold-chain systems in Africa brought together representatives from Government,



NGOs, academia and cold chain logistics experts to discuss the key global knowledge gaps that need to be addressed. In her address to the forum, Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Rwanda's Environment Minister, applauded the aims of the forum stating, "*I have no doubt that this forum is a stepping stone towards a more resilient,*

equitable, and sustainable world". Key findings from the Forum and ongoing research have been captured by the University of Birmingham in a new report, [*The Hot Reality: Living in a +50°C World*](#), which calls for cooling and cold chain to be considered as critical infrastructure.

U4E's ACES team also took part in the IFCTechEmerge Sustainable Cooling Innovation Summit which united innovators, adopters, financiers, and academia to share insights and explore the latest trends in cooling markets, such as climate smart energy solutions for residential cooling and how scaling innovations for small-scale commercial space cooling has the potential to reduce energy consumption by up to 80%. Experts also shared evidence and frameworks on how businesses benefit from building a more gender equal workforce, and insights on securing the right type of finance to propel solutions into the market.



In November, representatives of seven ASEAN Member States –Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam– came together in Johor Bahru in Malaysia to discuss the status of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for air conditioners in the region and

opportunities for peer learning and cooperation. The workshop, convened U4E and the [ASEAN Centre for Energy](#) (ACE), was the [first regional workshop](#) of the [Clean Cooling Collaborative](#)–funded ASEAN Cool Initiative and also facilitated the sharing of knowledge, feedback and experiences on past and current cooling initiatives and projects in the region and globally, including sharing experience from ASEAN and countries such as China and Japan.

Also in November, the Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN), in collaboration with U4E and various partners, hosted a monitoring, verification and enforcement (MVE) training workshop and a stakeholder workshop as part of the [Clean Cooling](#)



[Collaborative](#)– funded , Scaling Up

Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Cooling in Nigeria’s NDC Revision, project. The [stakeholder workshop](#) shared the results of the air conditioner market assessment that has been undertaken as part of the project and gathered further insights and inputs from the participating stakeholders. Participants also discussed the contents of a project report which proposes the strategies and rationale to implement the Nigerian Cooling Action Plan (N-CAP) recommendations.



The [MVE workshop](#) was designed to build the capacity of relevant government institutions to effectively enforce energy performance standards of air conditioning equipment; to enhance their ability to carry out surveillance activities in the air conditioner sector to monitor compliance with these standards; to harness feedback from stakeholders and solicit their buy-in regarding the new energy performance standards proposed for air conditioner standards.

News from our partners

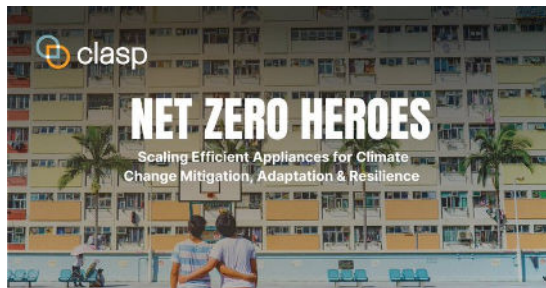


The [Global Cooling Pledge](#), led by COP28 host the United Arab Emirates, intends to raise ambition and international cooperation on improving efficiency and increasing access to sustainable cooling, especially in developing countries, while reining in planet-warming emissions from the sprawling cooling sector. This critical effort is supported by the [UNEP-led Cool Coalition](#) as an official outcome of the [UN Climate Action Summit](#). The Pledge will be

launched at COP28 during the [Energy, Industry and Just Transition Day](#) (5 December) by the COP28 President, Dr Sultan Al Jaber, and the UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen, joined by Ministers from countries who have endorsed the Pledge. Coordinated international action on cooling is necessary to keep a 1.5°C temperature limit within reach. Achieving the Global Cooling Pledge targets would cut emissions by approximately 78 billion tonnes CO₂e between 2022 and 2050. The Pledge highlights MEPS as an opportunity for countries to commit to, while reference the Model Regulations.

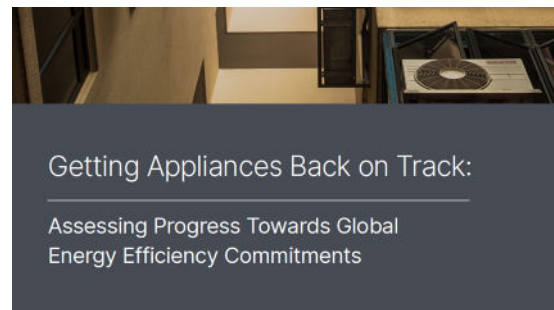
At the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury delegates [agreed to phase out fluorescent lighting](#)

globally and completely by 2027. The decision will accelerate global adoption of LEDs by effectively putting an end to the fluorescent lighting industry, with the limited exception of special uses like some transport applications. As well as the avoided mercury pollution, this will save consumers money on electricity bills and reduce CO₂ emissions.

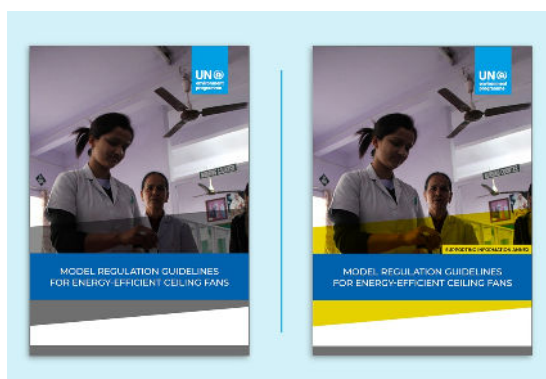


In November, [CLASP](#) launched a new report, [Net Zero Heroes: Scaling Efficient Appliances for Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience](#), which discusses the potential of efficient appliances and equipment to slash carbon emissions and catalyse sustainable development and identifies ambitious, near-term efficiency targets necessary to deliver on 2050 net-zero pledges. It focuses on the appliances, the Net Zero Heroes, that have the greatest potential to get us to Net Zero Emissions. The recommendations include the adoption of appliance policies such as MEPS and energy labels at levels at least as stringent as those recommended in U4E's [Model Regulation Guidelines](#).

A second [CLASP](#) report, [Getting Appliances Back on Track: Assessing Progress Towards Global Energy Efficiency Commitments](#), published in October tracks the progress of 15 countries who signed onto the Appliance Efficiency Call to Action in 2021 at COP26 in Glasgow, which pledged to double the energy efficiency of four product categories by 2030. The report also provides insight into the leading policy levers for accelerating appliance efficiency efforts – including examples of effective implementation of key interventions like MEPS and appliance energy labelling.



Resources

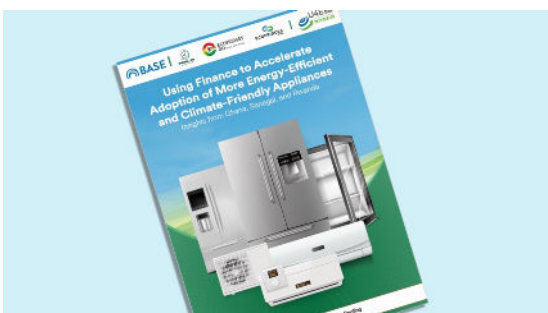


U4E's new [Model Regulation Guidelines for Energy-Efficient Ceiling Fans](#) provide guidance for governments that are considering mandatory policies, incentive programmes or voluntary financial mechanisms requiring new ceiling fans to be energy-efficient; providing a template for regulations that are based on best international

minimum performance standards. The supporting information annex provides the context and rationale which underpins the guidelines. It includes a brief explanation of sample markets, product scope, energy efficiency considerations, and testing protocols.

U4E's new [*Model Guidelines for Off-Grid Refrigerating Appliances*](#)

provide voluntary guidance intended to inform market transformation efforts in developing and emerging economies that support the adoption of new off-grid refrigerating appliances. They include recommended parameters for quality assurance, energy efficiency, and use of refrigerants and foam-blowing agents with a lower global warming potential (GWP) than typical legacy refrigerants. The guidance covers refrigerating appliances commonly used in residential and light commercial applications (not including walk-in cold rooms) in off-grid locations. The supporting information annex provides additional context about the rationale and methodologies underpinning the guidelines.



The [Clean Cooling Collaborative](#) and U4E report, [*Using Finance to Accelerate Adoption of More Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Appliances: Insights from Ghana, Senegal, and Rwanda*](#),

describes the lessons learned from three market-based financing mechanisms developed to facilitate consumer purchases of energy-efficient and climate-friendly refrigerators and air conditioners in lieu of outdated appliances implemented by the [ECOWAS Refrigerators and Air Conditioners \(ECOFRIDGES\) initiative](#) in Ghana and Senegal, and the [Rwanda Cooling Initiative \(R-COOL\)](#). It also provides comprehensive guidelines for stakeholders involved in similar financing mechanisms for energy-efficient and climate-friendly appliances, which offer valuable insights into the expectations for such mechanisms and outline the specific ways in which each stakeholder can actively contribute to their successful implementation and outcomes.

Partner Spotlight



The [Cool Coalition](#) is a UNEP-led global multi-stakeholder network that connects a wide range of key actors from government, international organizations, businesses, financial institutions, academia, and civil society

to facilitate knowledge exchange, advocacy, and joint action toward a rapid global transition to efficient and climate-friendly cooling. Launched in 2019 at the First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, the Cool Coalition promotes a 'reduce-shift-improve-protect-leverage,' cross-sectoral approach to meet the cooling needs of both industrialized and developing countries through better building design, energy efficiency, renewables, and thermal storage, as well as phasing down HFCs. It is now working with 130 partners, including 23 countries. U4E has worked closely with the Cool Coalition since its inception, supporting the network with its model regulation guidelines for cooling products and contributing to special projects, such as the drafting of the COP28 UAE Presidency and Cool Coalition Global Cooling Pledge.

UPCOMING EVENTS

30 NOVEMBER – 12 DECEMBER 2023

[COP28, Dubai, UAE](#)

2 DECEMBER 2023

[COP28 Montreal Protocol Pavilion](#)

Pathways to prevent the dumping of inefficient appliances with obsolete refrigerants

Led by CLASP

4 DECEMBER 2023

[COP28 Montreal Protocol Pavilion](#)

[Towards a market transformation in cooling: At the intersection of regulation and financing](#)

Led by U4E and Cool Up

5 DECEMBER 2023

[COP28 UNEP Pavilion](#)

Acceleration Models for Energy-Efficiency in Developing Countries

Led by UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre

5 DECEMBER 2023

[COP28, Al Waha Room, Blue Zone](#)

[Global Cooling Pledge: Environment and Climate Sustainability](#)

Organised by COP28 UAE Presidency and UNEP Cool Coalition

FEBRUARY 2024

[Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA-6\)](#)

Delivering Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain for All: From Momentum to Action (TBC)

Led by Rwanda Environment Management Authority

SPRING 2024

Formal opening of the ACES Headquarters, Kigali, Rwanda

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

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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