



Welcome to the March 2024 newsletter

The U4E newsletter provides a digest of the progress and upcoming developments of U4E and its partners. During the last quarter, we have had the pleasure of taking part in many joint and third-party events, carried out capacity building training for several projects and have been pleased to see some significant project milestones.

News

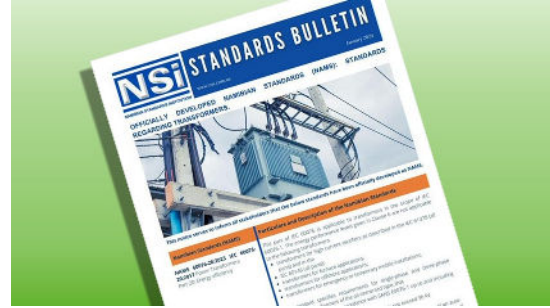


Following a rigorous process encompassing data collection, regional discussions, national consultations, and member state voting, [harmonized regional MEPS for air conditioners and residential refrigeration appliances](#) (cooling products) have been formally approved and disseminated to the 16

Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states for the commencement of national implementation. The MEPS were developed as part of [the Regional Harmonization of Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Cooling in East and Southern Africa project](#) and are expected to result in an estimated electricity saving of nearly 8 TWh by 2040, almost equivalent to the output of four large (500 MW) power plants, and a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 6.5 million tonnes, with an anticipated saving for consumers of approximately US\$840 million annually on their electricity bills.

In January 2024, the Namibian Standards Institution announced the release of MEPS for power distribution

transformers. The standards were developed as part of the [Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme](#) project, [Leapfrogging to Energy-Efficient Refrigerators and Transformers](#), led by the [Climate Technology Centre & Network \(CTCN\)](#), with the Government of Namibia. The specification for the standards is based on the U4E [Model Regulation Guidelines for Energy Performance Requirements for Distribution Transformers](#). Similar projects were completed in seven other Southern African countries – Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



On 4 March 2024, Honourable Rwanda Minister of the Environment Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya [formally opened the Africa Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain \(ACES\) headquarters](#) on the University of Rwanda, Rubirizi Campus in Kigali, marking the culmination of four year's work. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Minister Mujawamariya commented, *"ACES represents a significant milestone in our collective journey towards a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food and health systems for Africa. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions, ACES will empower farmers, healthcare workers, and stakeholders across various sectors to mitigate losses, enhance resilience, and promote sustainable development."* ACES is co-led by U4E, United Kingdom and Rwandan academic partners, and the Governments of Rwanda and the United Kingdom through the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) for the Rwanda Ministry of Environment, and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) respectively. It is the only centre of its kind globally taking a comprehensive, needs-driven, approach to the planning, development, deployment and operation of cold chains.

Significant agreements at COP28 provide an enabling environment for energy efficiency. The COP28 Presidency and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)-led [Cool Coalition](#) launched the [Global Cooling Pledge](#), endorsed by over 60 countries, to raise ambition and cooperation through collective global targets to reduce cooling related emissions by 68% from 2022 levels by 2050, significantly increase access to sustainable cooling by 2030, and increase the global average efficiency of new air conditioners by 50%. The Pledge highlights Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) as an opportunity for countries to commit to and reference [Model Regulation Guidelines](#).





Around 130 countries committed to double energy efficiency measures and triple installed renewables capacity by 2030 under the COP28 Presidency and I E A [Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge](#). By formalising a commitment to put the principle of energy efficiency as the "first fuel" at the

core of policymaking, planning, and major investment decisions, the Pledge provides a firm foundation for accelerating a transition to a less energy intensive future.

Notwithstanding these agreements, energy efficiency is often overlooked in discussions on the clean energy transition. As well as highlighting how renewable energy can help close energy access gaps and meet our climate goals, it's important to remember that the cleanest, cheapest energy available is



the energy we don't use! For this reason, on the first ever [International Day of Clean Energy](#) on 26 January 2024, the role of energy efficiency in reducing energy related emissions formed a [core part of UNEP's message](#) and is at the heart of U4E's work.

Capacity building



November 2023 saw several training events for U4E project participants. At the first, U4E provided [training to representatives of the Housing and Building National Research Center \(HBRC\)](#) in Alexandria, Egypt. The training focused on how sustainability criteria can be integrated into

procurement processes in Egypt, building upon and supporting the country's MEPS for ducted and non-ducted air conditioners. The training introduced the U 4 E [Sustainable Public Procurement tools](#), and a tailored version of the [Sustainable Public Procurement Toolkit](#), which helps tenderers to make more informed decisions when comparing different bids, was shared with the participants. This had been adapted to Egypt's situation by including information such as city-specific weather data, country-specific air conditioner utilisation profiles, details of the equipment available for purchase in Egypt and labour costs.

In Tunisia, U4E convened [two training workshops](#) to build capacity amongst

key stakeholders for monitoring, verification and enforcement (MVE) activities to support the country's forthcoming adoption of mandatory MEPS for lighting products. The first was hosted at the National Agency for Energy Management (ANME) and focussed on raising awareness of the importance of establishing an effective MVE framework and the elements that could be considered for inclusion to improve the current Tunisian MVE system. The second workshop took place at the Technical Center for Mechanical and Electrical Industries (CETIME) national test laboratory facilities in Tunis and focused on increasing testing capability for lighting product performance for the CETIME and ANME staff who will be involved in the compliance testing for the MVE system for lighting products.



At the end of the month, representatives from Bolivia and Tunisia visited three waste management treatment sites in Madrid and Zaragoza in Spain as part of a [four-day study tour](#). Their objective was to learn more about best practices in environmentally sound management for electric and electronic waste, which includes lighting waste, and meeting the requirements of national extended producer responsibility regulations. The study tour was in support of the [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF)-funded, [Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting](#), project in Bolivia, and the [Leapfrogging Tunisia's Lighting Market to High Efficiency Technologies](#) project, both of which include an objective to adopt a national environmentally sound management regulatory and operational framework to implement a waste lighting collection and recycling scheme to ensure the sustainable end-of-life treatment of spent lamps to facilitate a sustainable transition to more energy efficient lighting.

Events



At COP28 in December 2023, U4E presented a [joint side event](#) at the “Montreal Protocol advancing climate action” pavilion with the [Cool Up Programme](#). The event explored the intersection of regulation and financing, with experts touching on topics such as existing regulatory and financing mechanisms for sustainable cooling, how regulation paves the way for financing the sustainable cooling transition, and innovative financing tools available for the cooling sector. It provided insights into the development and implementation of [Minimum Energy Performance Standards](#) for cooling products and highlighted

Cool Up's collaboration with major players in the finance sector.

Also in December 2023, U4E supported a [Regional Energy Efficiency Policy Workshop](#) in Algiers organised with the [African Union African Energy Commission \(AFREC\)](#), and hosted by the [Algerian Energy Efficiency Authority \(APRUE\)](#), as part of our activities under the [African Energy Efficiency Program](#).



The main objective of the workshop was to share information on energy efficiency policies already implemented in the region and on the [new African Energy Efficiency Strategy \(AfEES\) and Action Plan](#) and to provide an opportunity for discussion on the different proposals developed to foster their implementation in the region. The ultimate aim being to develop national and regional markets of quality and efficient products through national actions such as strategic market transformation programmes and green public procurement measures, coordinated and harmonized at the regional and continental levels.



Rounding off the month, U4E's Patrick Blake took part virtually in the [Impact Climate Innovation Conference 2023](#), convened to share collective wisdom on tackling climate change and foster active collaboration and build consensus. To this end, he provided an update on the status of MEPS globally and U4E's [Model](#)

[Regulation Regulations](#) and highlighted our on-going regional work in Asia and Africa.

February was also a busy month for events. In the first, U4E's Saikiran Kasamsetty took part in a [Twinning Workshop for Pacific Island Countries Ozone Officers, Energy-Efficiency Policy Makers, and Financial Mechanisms Focal Points to Support Kigali Amendment Objectives](#) in Rarotonga, Cook Islands



convened by UNEP OzonAction. He presented on the energy-efficiency topics on the agenda and introduced U4E's resources, such as those for [product registration systems](#), which were of particular interest to the participants. This Twinning Workshop built upon the [OzonAction/U4E Twinning Workshops that were carried out in 2018-2019](#) for 150+ countries and is part of a new series of events for 2023-2024.

Later in the month, at a [workshop in Banjul](#) convened by the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MOPE) and U4E, participants formally validated the



results of a market assessment carried out to identify the current status of air conditioners and refrigeration appliances in the country and were consulted on the development of a National Cooling Action Plan (NCAP). The workshop was undertaken as part of the [*Leapfrogging to Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly*](#)

[*Air Conditioners and Refrigerators in The Gambia*](#) project. The next steps following the workshop will be to submit the final version of the market assessment to the Minister of Petroleum and Energy for official signoff and to follow up the discussions from the breakout groups on the NCAP consultation with detailed data collection and analysis and begin drafting of the NCAP.

On a bonus 29th of February, more than 100 public sector procurement officials and suppliers came together in Santo Domingo for a [*workshop on sustainable public procurement of air conditioners*](#) convened by U4E and hosted by the Dominican General Directorate of Public Procurement and the Ministry of



Environment Ozone Programme. It was carried out under the umbrella of the [*Dominican Republic - Promoting Sustainable Cooling*](#) project, funded by the UNEP-convened [*Climate and Clean Air Coalition*](#) (CCAC), to raise awareness among key stakeholders and end users about the strategy to transition to low global warming potential refrigerants and highlight the importance of energy efficiency in all public administration bodies for the acquisition of goods, works and services. It also presented details of the technical and financial feasibility study for the establishment of an energy efficiency and refrigerant gas testing laboratory for air conditioners in the Dominican Republic which was carried out as part of the sustainable cooling project.



The [*Buildings and Climate Global Forum*](#), co-organised by France and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the support of the [*Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction*](#) (GlobalABC), took place on 7–8 March 2024 at the Palais des Congrès in Paris, France. It brought together ministers

and high-level representatives of key organisations to initiate a new impetus in international collaboration towards decarbonisation and resilience in buildings sector. In recognition that maximising the energy efficiency of building services, such as lighting, air conditioning and motor systems, has an important role to play, one of the thematic sessions explored how to accelerate deployment of equipment for sustainable heating and cooling. In closing the session, U4E's Paul Kellett, called on participants to urgently enable the green investment needed in our sustainable buildings, infrastructure and new energy systems at a much faster

rate, following through on the recent outcomes of COP28. Emphasising that the earlier new, more eco-efficient and more sustainable technologies and practices are put into mass usage, the sooner the energy transition and the unlocking of trillions of dollars in economic savings for all will be achieved, he called for more strategically focused national programmes on green technology procurement through public and institutional purchasing at much higher energy performance levels. Enabling proven consumer market facing policies and programmes to bring sustainable energy and infrastructure for all, is the cornerstone of the new 21st century clean energy system.

Resources



#Refriclaje is a refrigerator replacement campaign in Chile that aims to replace and recycle old and inefficient devices and raise awareness of their impact on the environment and on the household budget. It was developed as part of the GEF-funded, [*Accelerating the Energy Transition Towards an Efficient*](#)

[*Refrigerator and Freezer Market in Chile*](#), project, which aims to transform Chile's markets to energy-efficient residential refrigerators and freezers. The project is a key component of Chile's energy efficiency strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change. The video providing an [overview of the #Refriclaje campaign](#) is now available in English and provides an excellent example of the positive impact that product replacement schemes can have.

The GEF-funded, [*Delivering the Transition to Energy Efficient Lighting in Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Outdoor Sectors*](#), project in Pakistan focused on achieving significant global climate change mitigation and environmental benefits by instituting efficient lighting policies and creating a



framework for innovative financial mechanisms that promote innovative and high efficiency products. The lighting retrofit which was carried out as part of the project at the [*Raziuddin Siddiqi Memorial Library*](#) in Islamabad to demonstrate the savings that can be achieved by replacing old, inefficient lighting with new LED lamps has been selected to feature in the UNEP Climate Action series of multimedia stories to illustrate practical, working solutions as an inspiration to individuals, organizations, private sector and governments on what they can do, what there is to gain and that it is, in fact, possible.

Partner Spotlight



Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction

Launched at COP21, the [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction](#) (GlobalABC) is a voluntary partnership of national and local governments, inter-governmental organisations, businesses, associations, networks and

think tanks committed to a common vision – *a zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector*. It is hosted by the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) and currently has 291 members, including 42 countries. It is a global advocate and a catalyst to action, and a trusted platform to set targets and track progress in the buildings sector. It supports countries in setting priorities and measures based on their situation and private sector transition with priorities and strategies toward business models focused on decarbonising and increasing the resilience of buildings. There are clear synergies between the two programmes and U4E has worked with GlobalABC since its inception. U4E complements GlobalABC's vision with supporting expertise on the energy efficiency of the services, such as lighting, air conditioning and electric motors, within the building, and on sustainable and on sustainable public procurement and how these can be built into government strategies for the sector. Together, improving the energy efficiency of the construction sector, the building fabric and the building infrastructure will contribute to the [Buildings Breakthrough](#) ambition that near-zero emission and resilient buildings are the new normal by 2030.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 APRIL 2024 (TBC)

[Training webinar on the Model Regulation Guidelines for Energy-Efficient Ceiling Fans](#)

16 APRIL 2024 (TBC)

[U4E Country Savings Assessment for West Africa webinar](#)
Convened by the AU, and in conjunction with ECREEE

19 APRIL 2024

[Global Stocktaking on SDG7, New York, USA](#)
As part of the Sustainability Week organized by the President of the UN General Assembly

21–23 MAY 2024

[IEA 9th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency, Nairobi, Kenya](#)

29 MAY 2024

[International ESCO Symposium 2024, Paris, France](#)
Organised by the Global ESCO Network, supported by UNEP (via the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre)

27–18 JUNE 2024

[OzonAction Workshop for Montreal Protocol Officers, Energy-Efficiency Policy Makers, and Financial Mechanisms Focal Points, Kingston, Jamaica](#)

3–5 SEPTEMBER 2024

[eemods'24](#), Lucerne, Switzerland

13th International Conference on Energy Efficiency in Motor Driven Systems

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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