



Welcome to the December 2024 Newsletter

On behalf of the entire U4E team, we wish to thank you for your incredible support and trust as we transform markets with more sustainable appliance and equipment solutions. It's been a year of tremendous growth as our expert cohort now includes over 30 experts and many more through our contracted partners. We have expanded our product scope to include data centres and servers and heat pumps, hosted the phase I opening of the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-Chain, launched multi-year projects in a variety of new markets and scaled-up our work in many existing ones. There have been many concrete "wins" for people and the planet as we secured robust regulatory and voluntary incentive-based interventions, with more to come thanks to further donor commitments. The need for energy-efficient and climate-friendly solutions is tremendous and U4E - with your help - is rising to meet the challenge. We wish you a wonderful end of 2024 and all the best for what is sure to be an exciting year ahead!

Brian Holuj and Patrick Blake, Programme Managers

News

U4E Convenes Partners' meeting in Paris: On December 10 and 11, we welcomed 21 partners to the UNEP office in Paris for the programme's first in-person event since the pandemic. This gathering provided a unique opportunity to foster collaboration on regional and national projects while showcasing U4E's latest tools, guidance, training, and outreach initiatives. It featured a dynamic mix of plenary sessions, smaller breakout discussions, and ad hoc



bilateral meetings, enabling meaningful and in-depth exchanges among all participants. We also celebrated our 15-year anniversary as a programme and set the stage for the next great chapter in our global market transformation efforts.



Key Steps Toward More Sustainable Cooling in West Africa:

In November, the Nigerian government approved the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for Air Conditioners (ACs) that we prepared with local stakeholders over the past few years.

This is big news from Africa's largest market for these products. We also conducted training on end-of-life management of cooling equipment. In June, government officials and the private sector participated in a Standards Organization of Nigeria Technical Committee (TC) meeting in Abuja to deliberate and finalize the proposed MEPS and energy labels. In addition, we launched with the Nigerian and Ghanaian governments and UNDP the Abating Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Obsolete Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (AGORA) Equipment Project, aiming to scale-up financing options for energy-efficient and climate-friendly appliances and to address importation of used products, building off our previous project.

Study Tour in Ghana Boosts Development and Implementation of MEPS for Room Air Conditioners and Domestic Refrigerators in The Gambia:

The study tour was a critical activity under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Project for a "National Framework for Leapfrogging to Energy Efficient and Climate Friendly AC and Refrigerators in The Gambia". The participants heard the experiences from Ghana in setting and implementing standards, labels and incentive programmes (such as through the ECOFRIDGE programme).



Zimbabwe Advances Implementation for SADC Harmonised MEPS for Cooling Appliances:

The Training of Trainers workshop in Bindura, Zimbabwe, was organised as part of the national implementation of SADC Harmonized MEPS for cooling appliances to build technical capacity so that participants

could also provide training to a broad audience at the planned regional workshops and ensure the smooth implementation of MEPS in the country.

Eswatini Advances MEPS Implementation with Stakeholder Engagement Workshops:

The Eswatini Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE), in collaboration with the Eswatini Standards Authority (SWASA),

convened three workshops to create awareness and promote stakeholder engagement in October.



UK Minister Visits Cold Chain Centre and New Technologies to Support Food Security in Rwanda: During the Africa Food Systems Annual Summit in early September, the UK Minister for Africa, Lord Collins, visited the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain (ACES) in Kigali,

Rwanda. ACES accelerates the deployment of sustainable, equitable and resilient cold-chain solutions in Africa to respond to the urgent need to improve livelihoods and well-being. In December, over 130 Kenyan farmers attended a Clean Cooling Network event in Kinsale, where they signed up for cold-chain and postharvest management training and tested new technologies. Organised by the African Centre of Technology Studies, UNEP, and the University of Birmingham, the event is part of establishing a Community Cooling Hub in Kiambu County. Additional information is available [here](#).

Advancing Energy Efficiency in Malaysia: MEPS Revision for Air Conditioners: UNEP-U4E participated in a meeting with the Energy Commission of Malaysia (EC), the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA), and the ASHRAE Malaysia Chapter (ASHRAE) on the status of MEPS revision for ACs in the country, as well as the current progress on the ASEAN Cool Initiative.



UNEP Hosts Study Tour in Singapore to Drive Enhanced MEPS in Southeast Asia: In November, U4E, under the ASEAN Cool Initiative, and UNEP OzonAction jointly led a Study Tour in Singapore to enhance understanding of regulatory frameworks for implementing and enforcing enhanced Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) across the region. The tour

showcased Singapore's success in meeting the Regional Phase II MEPS targets, offering a model for other ASEAN countries.

Activities

5 September - EEMODS'24: U4E participated in a side event in the electric motor system's forum to present new Model Regulation Guidelines to be published soon.

12 September – Training Program Financial Mechanisms and Business Models for Scaling Up the LED Market in Tunisia: Workshop for Tunisian public entities and LED manufacturers on financial mechanisms and business models to scale the LED market.

18 September – Webinar for review and deliberation of UNEP U4E's Sustainable Public Procurement Guideline for Data Centres and Computer Servers: This webinar brought together technical peers, U4E partners, organizations, and manufactures that have contributed to the review and consultation process of the Guidelines.

20 September – Mission Efficiency Charrette 2024: U4E joined energy efficiency experts, policymakers, and specialists to develop collective strategies for increasing the visibility of energy efficiency.

Ongoing – ACES and India Cold Chain Centres of Excellence Webinar Series: Part of the Cold-Chain webinar series hosted and delivered through the Clean Cooling Network which is the umbrella platform for U4E's cold chain work through the Centres of Excellence with our university partners.

15 – 17 October – Training Programme for new staff of Montreal Protocol Units in Europe and Central Asia: U4E discussed the link between energy efficiency, HCFC phase-out, and refrigerant alternatives.

23 October – U4E Webinar on Electric Motor Systems: U4E introduced an updated Policy Guide and Model Regulation Guidelines for energy-efficient motor systems, including pumps, fans, and compressors.

26 October – World Cold Chain Symposium: Webinar highlighting efficient and sustainable business models to advance the global cold chain.

30 October – "Meeting the Global Energy Efficiency Target: Energy Efficiency Market Transformation in Africa": In this webinar in collaboration with the African Energy Commission (AFREC), we presented the impacts of implementing energy-efficient products in Africa based on U4E's Regional Savings Assessment and Model Regulation Guidelines.

Resources

New Savings Assessments for Heat Pumps U4E has assessed the savings potential from implementing energy efficiency standards for heat pumps. It outlines the savings potential in both delivered energy use and carbon emissions from introducing energy-efficient heat pumps in selected developing and emerging economies with high heating degree days.

U4E contribution to the International Special Issue of the RAC publication "Industria & Formazione": Stephen Cowperthwaite, Centre of Excellence Lead at UNEP U4E, has published the article "Developing Regional Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chains" on the publication, available here. The International Special Issue is distributed by the United Nations at MOP and COP

conferences to the Delegates and Heads of State who represent the 197 UN Countries.

Emissions Gap Report 2024: UNEP launched the 15th edition of the publication that provides a yearly review of the gap between where global emissions are heading with countries' current climate commitments and where they ought to be to limit warming to 1.5°C. The report covers Energy efficiency in several sections due to its great potential for mitigating climate change and its central role in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Partner Spotlight



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) of the Government of the United Kingdom is responsible for improving and protecting the environment, aiming to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities. U4E has partnered with Defra since 2019 to develop and deliver a

work package to optimise the benefits of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol through equitable and resilient cooling and cold chains well as help reduce food and vaccine loss in developing markets. Work includes Model Regulation Guidelines, a Sustainable Public Procurement toolkit, and Country Savings Assessments for cooling products deployed in regional and national market transformation projects worldwide. Within Defra ODA funding, there is also the flagship workstream delivering the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-Chains through the anchor funder of our landmark Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES) and a hub and SPOKE model. This employs a reference and replication approach with a Centre in Haryana, India, under development. Both form part of our broader Clean Cooling Network programme in partnership with the University of Birmingham-led Centre for Sustainable Cooling.

UPCOMING EVENTS

22-23 JANUARY 2025

[Daikin Konwakai – Brugge, Belgium](#)

24-28 FEBRUARY 2025

[SADC Sustainable Energy Week – Gaborone, Botswana](#)

12-13 MARCH 2025

[Sustainable Energy for All Global Forum - Bridgetown, Barbados](#)

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 united in a common cause to concretely deploy practical solutions through global, regional and national projects.

With thanks to our funders



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