



Welcome to the April 2025 Newsletter

2025 is off to an encouraging start for U4E, marked by significant strides across regions—from the approval of new Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) in Nigeria and Malaysia to hands-on training and groundbreaking new guidelines advancing energy-efficient and climate-friendly solutions. U4E has also been active in key events and dialogues shaping the global efficiency agenda. This issue brings you highlights from the field, new technical tools, and regional progress. Happy reading!



Nigerian Government Approves New MEPS for Air Conditioners to Boost Energy Efficiency

In a major step toward advancing energy efficiency and climate goals, the Nigerian government approved new mandatory MEPS and energy labels for air conditioners (ACs). As Africa's largest AC market and a manufacturing hub, Nigeria's adoption of these standards marks a significant milestone. The move follows years of technical support from U4E. It is expected to drive economies of scale for more efficient products, reduce lifecycle costs, and deliver needed long-term energy savings in a country where grid stability remains a pressing challenge.

Developed under the *Scaling Up Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Cooling in Nigeria's NDC Revision* project, the MEPS will advance in a phased approach starting with an initial 6% efficiency improvement over the current baseline

coming into effect in 2026, which phases out the least efficient models, followed by a 36% efficiency gain over current baseline which effectively eliminates fixed-speed units by 2029, and a 48% improvement in 2031.

The implementation of these MEPS will deliver annual energy savings of over 11 TWh by 2040, resulting in a cumulative reduction of 39 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions by that year. A cap on the global warming potential of refrigerants will also take effect in 2029 to support climate-friendly cooling.

A major outreach campaign has been launched to explain the need for MEPS and labels, as well as their operational principles. We are proud to highlight Nkechi Isaac, our stellar communications lead, who won Journalist of the Year (2024) in Nigeria in part for her landmark work through this programme. Building on this project, we are now transitioning to unlocking consumer finance for efficient air conditioners and refrigerators through the [AGORA project](#), in partnership with UNDP.

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[Training Nigerian Technicians for Sustainable Cooling Appliance Management](#)

As part of U4E's comprehensive Nigeria programme, the Federal Ministry of Environment hosted, in collaboration with our team, a hands-on training workshop in Kano City. The workshop equipped cooling sector technicians with practical skills for the safe handling of electronic waste from end-of-life air conditioning equipment, including the collection and management of refrigerants. The training focused on dismantling processes, with emphasis on recycling and reuse opportunities for outdated components. The training also introduced concepts that can be applied to other types of equipment. The workshop emphasised the environmental and safety risks associated with obsolete cooling systems and reinforced the importance of proper end-of-life management.

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[U4E Introduces Energy-efficient Data Centre Guidelines](#)

At the AI Action Summit in Paris, U4E introduced its *Sustainable Procurement Guidelines for Data Centres and Computer Servers*, which will be published in the near future, emphasising the need for energy efficiency in data centres. The Summit also marked the launch of the Coalition

for Sustainable AI, a collaborative effort led by France, UNEP, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), bringing together 91 partners committed to promoting environmentally sustainable AI practices. Alongside the publication of the Guidelines, U4E is exploring deployment opportunities that put the contents into practical use.

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New Energy Standards: Malaysia's EECA and MEPS Update

Malaysia's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (EECA) came into force in January 2025, marking a major step toward its carbon neutrality goals. Under this new law, revised MEPS for room air conditioners will gradually raise efficiency requirements through 2030. Supported by U4E under the ASEAN Cool Initiative, Malaysia is projected to save up to 17 TWh of electricity annually by 2040—equivalent to 10% of the country's total electricity use. This saving will reduce 11 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions—comparable to removing six million cars from the road—and result in electricity bill savings of USD 1.3 billion per year by 2040. In parallel, U4E is continuing to support the Energy Commission (EC) in advancing efficiency standards for other cooling products.



Festival of Cooling this September as part of broader Cold Chain Programme Delivery

From 22-26 September, the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain (ACES) will host a *Festival of Cooling* at its Campus in Kigali, Rwanda, along with remote access opportunities on the programme's online knowledge and learning hub. The event aims to raise awareness, build capacity, and foster collaboration around sustainable cold chain solutions for the food and health sectors.

We are entering an exciting phase as ACES transitions from design to implementation, testing, and roll-out. The programme now offers a growing portfolio of training, from basic cold chain principles for farmers and entrepreneurs to Phd-level academic studies spanning topics covering technology, business models, policies, and beyond. The ACES campus, the Refrigeration Training Centre, and other key facilities are operational.

The “try before you buy” programme was officially launched in Kenya with the cooperative and is now operational - a model to be replicated in rural communities more broadly. In India, the Centre of

Excellence design was approved, and an MoU was signed setting the stage for construction, staffing and future operations, replicating the path pioneered by ACES.

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Rwanda Advances Energy-Efficient Cooling Regulations and Oversight

From 25–28 March, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) hosted a series of stakeholder engagements and technical trainings in Kigali to strengthen energy-efficient cooling regulation as part of the GCF Readiness-supported Rwanda Cooling Initiative. Led by REMA with technical support from U4E, the activities focused on validating a new Technical Regulation for domestic refrigerators, air conditioners and lighting, which will implement MEPS and efficiency labels. Over 30 participants joined hands-on sessions to build capacity for implementation and enforcement of the technical regulation, which also included the presentation of the Product Registration System that is being developed under the project.



Türkiye Boosts Energy Efficiency with Modern Electric Motors

In Türkiye, upgrading to energy-efficient electric motors is significantly reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions. Through the TEVMOT project—funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by our partners at UNDP, with support from U4E — 363 outdated motors have been replaced across 48 small businesses. This shift is expected to save approximately 1.5 gigawatt hours of electricity annually and avoid 685 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions while also lowering electricity costs for businesses. With motor use projected to double in the next two decades, such efforts are essential to reducing the need for new power plants.

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Latest Activities

28 January – Emissions from Cooling Systems in Data Centres: U4E participated in a webinar hosted by the CCAC Cooling Hub, presenting *Data Centres and Computer Servers for a Sustainable Digital Market Transformation*. Then, on 13 February, U4E took part in another CCAC webinar focused on data centres, this time with a regional emphasis on Asia.

19 February - Avances en la eficiencia energética de electrodomésticos y equipos: herramientas y experiencias de U4E (*Advances in appliance and equipment energy efficiency: U4E tools and experiences*): During this session, led by U4E, model regulations for efficient equipment (lighting, appliances, motors, etc.) and product registration systems were shared with examples from Latin America.

27 February – SADC Sustainable Energy Week: U4E took part in the fourth day of the conference, in the session *Optimizing Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Innovation in Lighting and Cooling Systems*.

17-20 March – Climate and Clean Air Conference: At the Climate and Clean Air conference held in Brasília, Brazil, U4E participated in the *Marketplace of Ideas*, engaging with countries and donors from around the world. The team showcased the significant mitigation potential of implementing policies to transform markets toward low-GWP and energy-efficient cooling equipment. During the cooling side event of the *Momentum to COP30* session, U4E was also able to present project experiences in collaboration with CCAC, encouraging more countries to adopt similar approaches to enhance the effectiveness of their climate and air quality efforts.

New Resources & Upcoming Events

Brazil Case Study – Definition of Testing Standards for Assessing the Energy Efficiency of Commercial Refrigerators: This case study highlights the Brazilian delegation's study tour on testing standards for commercial refrigerators at the Re/gent Laboratory in the Netherlands. It also covers a comparative study by CEPEL and training activities in Brazil supported by U4E to aid in developing and enforcing Brazil's national test standards.

French Translations Available for Off-Grid Refrigerator and Ceiling Fan Guides:

- Directives pour un modèle de qualité et de performance des équipements de réfrigération hors réseau (*Model Quality and Performance Guidelines for Off-Grid Refrigerating Appliances*).
- Directives pour un modèle de réglementation des ventilateurs de plafond écoénergétiques (*Model Regulation Guidelines for Energy-Efficient Ceiling Fans*).

19 – 23 May

The 29th Energy Efficiency and Conservation – Sub Sector Network (EE&C-SSN) Meeting and Its Associated Meetings

20 – 21 May

Green Cooling Summit 2025: Sustainable Cooling and Heating in Buildings

26 June

World Refrigeration Day: The critical role of refrigeration and heat pump solutions in advancing human well-being, animal welfare and climate sustainability

7-11 July

Forty-seventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (OEWG47)

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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