

Welcome to the August 2025 Newsletter

The second quarter of 2025 was a dynamic and productive period for national and regional projects as well as outreach at the **World Refrigeration Day**, the **Green Cooling Summit**, and the **47th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Montreal Protocol**, reinforcing the central role of energy efficiency in addressing climate and development challenges. At the **International Energy Agency (IEA's) 10th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency**, global leaders and experts emphasised the urgent need to double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency. As part of the **Global Cooling Pledge Signatories Focal Points Meeting**, U4E provided government officials with practical tools to strengthen regulatory frameworks for energy-efficient cooling. In **Nigeria**, a national awareness campaign is underway to promote the newly approved MEPS and energy labels for air conditioners, featuring stakeholder workshops in Lagos and Kano, as well as broad multimedia outreach. The stories contained herein showcase major updates in keeping with that profound call for tangible, large-scale progress in developing and emerging economies.

Happy reading!



U4E Releases Comprehensive Guidelines for Sustainable Data Centres and Servers

The new ***Sustainable Procurement Guidelines for Data Centres and Servers*** are designed to help governments and institutions reduce the growing energy and climate impact of digital infrastructure. The Guidelines provide a simple set of technical recommendations on the key performance criteria and operational conditions (based on well-known

Key Performance Indicators) that are most relevant and impactful for selecting energy-efficient data centres and computer servers, to be considered during any procurement process.

To mark the release, U4E hosted a [global webinar](#) on 8 July with over 60 participants. Speakers, including Brazil's Ministry of Mines and Energy, Alibaba Group, and the Uptime Institute highlighted the importance of investing in sustainable data centres and examples of how the Guidelines are already informing policies and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategies.

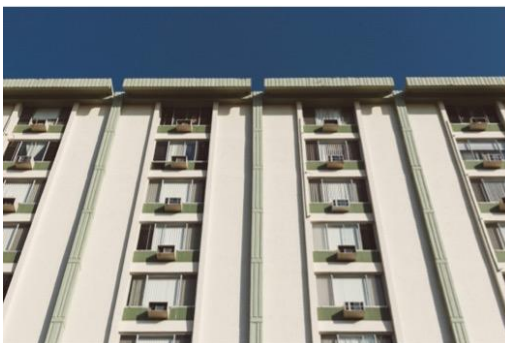
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ASEAN Cooling Commitments Reinforced

At the **2nd ASEAN Regional Workshop** held in Manila in June, government representatives reaffirmed their commitment to scaling up energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling. Co-hosted by the Philippines' Department of Energy (DOE) and supported by U4E through the ASEAN Cool Initiative, the event aimed to align national actions with the ASEAN Regional Roadmap for Room Air Conditioners (RACs) and enhance policy implementation across the region. Currently, [Malaysia](#) and [Singapore](#) are leading the way, having updated their MEPS for RACs in line with the regional roadmap, setting a benchmark for ambition and pace of implementation. Other Member States are at various stages of reviewing and updating their standards. Technical discussions during the workshop also addressed financing, monitoring, and registration systems as key tools to accelerate progress.

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East Africa Approves Harmonised MEPS for Cooling

The East African Community (EAC) has officially gazetted regionally harmonised Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and labelling requirements for RACs and residential refrigerators. Endorsed by all six EAC Partner States, this milestone is the result of a multi-year process supported by U4E and partners to promote energy-efficient, climate-friendly cooling. Once implemented, the MEPS are expected to save 3.7 TWh of electricity annually by 2040, avoid 2.5 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions, and cut consumer energy bills by over USD 600 million.

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Off-Grid Refrigeration Promotion in Nigeria

U4E and Nigeria's Rural Electrification Agency (REA) launched a pilot initiative to deploy sustainable, off-grid refrigeration solutions in rural communities. The project will be implemented in three phases: market assessment, community engagement, and installation of at least 40 energy-efficient, climate-friendly units which meet strict eligibility criteria consistent with U4E's *Model Quality and Performance Guidelines for Off-Grid Refrigerating Appliances*. REA will lead implementation in selected communities, with U4E providing technical assistance and monitoring through October 2025. The pilot aims to enhance food preservation for families and small businesses, as well as new market opportunities for vendors. The pilot is also expected to generate insights on how to scale up adoption through supporting policy measures and larger-scale programmes in keeping with Nigeria's rural electrification and climate goals.

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Rwanda Strengthens Regulatory Enforcement Through Capacity Building

From 25–28 March, the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), in collaboration with U4E and partners, led a week of stakeholder consultations, bilateral meetings, and training activities to advance the country's new Technical Regulation on energy-efficient cooling. The regulation introduces MEPS, energy labels, and extended producer responsibility requirements for domestic refrigerators, ACs, and lighting products—aligned with EAC standards. Once implemented, the regulation is expected to reduce over 77,000 tCO₂eq and save approximately 107 GWh annually—the equivalent of avoiding a 24 MW power plant.

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Outreach and Events

10 April – 20th IEA Energy Efficiency Policy Training Week : U4E joined in the session *Making It Happen: Understanding the Market*, sharing insights on appliance efficiency standards and market uptake.

15 April – Energy Rating Labels and the Potential for Energy Savings Webinar: Co-hosted by U4E and CEET, the event explored global best practices on energy labels and MEPS.

28 May – Kick-off of the Expert Group supporting: The collaborative process to update the original Guidelines, first published in 2019, was launched. This update expands the scope to include higher-capacity systems and additional product types, incorporating updated efficiency metrics. The revised guidelines are expected to be published by the end of 2025.

16 June 2025 – Standards for Circular Economy – Tackling Plastic Pollution: Hosted by the IEC Academy in celebration of World Environment Day, this session explored how standards and conformity assessment can accelerate the adoption of circular economy practices across industries. Register [here](#) to watch the webinar recording and see U4E's participation on the role of energy efficiency in a circular economy.

27 June – Workshop on China Energy Labelling Programme: To mark 20 years of its energy efficiency labelling scheme, China hosted a national conference in Beijing with over 200 participants. U4E shared updates on its global work, including the new Guidelines for data centres.

18 June – G20 Policy Dialogue on Socio-Economic Safeguards: During the *Energy Transition Working Group session under Priority 2 – Outcome II*, U4E presented on the role and importance of energy efficiency, along with key tools and shared an overview of U4E's work in the EAC and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

5 – 11 July – Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Bangkok (OEWG47): U4E presented its new Guidelines for data centres at a side event hosted by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), and shared experiences on financing sustainable cooling at the event organized by CoolUp. Additionally, a U4E poster was exhibited throughout the week to showcase the potential of regulating both energy efficiency and refrigerants.

New Resources & Upcoming Events

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Cooling Guide: This new guide helps governments integrate sustainable cooling into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)—addressing a fast-growing source of emissions. It outlines a six-step framework covering emissions assessments, target-setting, financing, and equitable access, with a strong focus on energy efficiency and climate-friendly refrigerants.

New Report – Seizing the moment of opportunity: supercharging the new energy era of renewables, efficiency, and electrification: This high-level UN report outlines the urgent need—and economic opportunity—to accelerate the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy. It highlights the critical roles of renewables, electrification, and energy efficiency in driving a just and sustainable energy transition.

Regional Market Assessment of Household Refrigerators in ASEAN: The new report highlights the rapid growth in ASEAN's refrigerator market and its rising energy demand, calling for harmonised efficiency standards to reduce future consumption and emissions.

New Online Course: Essentials in Cold-Chain

Systems: The Clean Cooling Academy has launched its first self-paced e-learning course, providing foundational knowledge on sustainable cold-chain systems. The course is free, mobile-

1 September

Building Global Trust in GHG Claims Webinar

1-6 September

Climate Week, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

22-26 September

Festival of Cooling, Kigali, Rwanda

28-29 October

Clean Cooling Network Conference: Sustainable Cold-Chain for the Global South, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

30 October - 1 November

Energise India - Energising Change: Empowering Communities, Driving Solutions, Panchgani, Maharashtra, India

3-7 November

37th Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol (MOP35), Nairobi, Kenya – U4E co-led side event proposals under development

10-21 November

friendly, and open to early-career professionals and newcomers to the field.

[Clean Cooling Network Annual Review](#): The Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain Solutions Programme marked a major shift in 2025—from design to delivery. Read the annual review.

COP 30, Belém, Brazil

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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