



Welcome to the December 2025 Newsletter

As **UNEP-U4E** concludes a year of major progress, partners convened in Paris in December for the annual **U4E Partners' Meeting** to review achievements and refine priorities for 2026. The two-day gathering brought together representatives from governments, industry and international organizations to reflect on key milestones, from new harmonised Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) in East Africa to strengthened regional initiatives in ASEAN and national progress in Mauritius, Malaysia, Nigeria and beyond. Looking ahead, discussions on emerging areas such as data centres, AI and expanded Country Savings Assessments and tools set a strong foundation for the coming year. In this edition, we highlight some of these achievements and recent developments across the U4E portfolio.

Happy reading!



Cutting Food Loss in Kenya with Cold-Chain Solutions

Through the **Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain (ACES)**, farmers in Kenya are achieving significant income gains thanks to sustainable cold-chain solutions and improved post-harvest practices. New solar-powered cold storage facilities, refrigerated transport, training, and the business model provided through the initiative have helped reduce food losses and reach new markets, **increasing returns on their produce by around 50%**. These efforts are strengthening food security,

boosting rural livelihoods, and lowering emissions across agricultural value chains. This approach will be scaled up in additional farming communities in the year ahead based on lessons learned.

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Mauritius Leads the Way in Enforcing SADC Harmonised MEPS for Air Conditioners

Mauritius has become the first country in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to enforce the regionally harmonised MEPS standard for room air-conditioners (ACs), starting 1 September 2025. From that date, all split and portable AC units sold, imported or manufactured in the country must meet minimum efficiency thresholds (CSPF ≥ 4.5 for split systems; EER ≥ 3.10 for portable units). This move is expected to deliver significant benefits: up to **104 GWh/year** in electricity savings by 2040, avoiding roughly **101,000 tonnes of CO₂** emissions, and generating about **US \$15 million** in energy cost savings, while contributing to greater energy security and a cleaner cooling market across the region.

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AGORA Project Strengthens Momentum for Sustainable Cooling Solutions in Ghana

In Ghana, the [Abating Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Obsolete Refrigeration and Air Conditioning \(AGORA\)](#) project hosted a recent workshop in Accra with government, industry and development partners to assess market needs and identify opportunities to scale up energy-efficient, climate-friendly cooling solutions building on the foundation of our previous EcoFridges project. The discussions reinforced a strong national commitment to improving policies, compliance, and access to efficient technologies. They also got into the practical implementation modalities: partners were briefed about a proposed installation-rebate offer for **R290 room ACs (the “AGORA AC” concept)**, what it would take for vendors to implement it in showrooms (serial numbers on invoices, voucher validation, installation reporting), and how to pair it with consumer finance. The mission also linked this market work to enforcement, including engagement at the Port of Tema, where customs officers were trained on appliance-efficiency regulations and the Energy

Commission walked through the container-inspection workflow for regulated appliances.

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Outreach and Events



Driving Sustainable Cooling Solutions in Rwanda

In October, Rwanda hosted the first-ever Festival of Cooling, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, students, financial institutions and development partners to advance sustainable cooling solutions across Africa. Organised by the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain (ACES), the event highlighted innovations in clean cooling capabilities on campus – from training to equipment testing - as well as business models and policy pathways for the global South. A wide range of training is underway for [schoolchildren](#), and a variety of [in-person and online courses](#) on sustainable cold-chain solutions is now available. Other recent events include the [Cool World](#) conference hosted by the University of Birmingham and the [Vaccine Cold-Chain Symposium](#) at ACES.

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U4E and UNIDO Co-Lead Events at MOP37

During the **37th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP37)** in Nairobi, UNEP-U4E and UNIDO co-led two events highlighting regional progress and opportunities to scale up energy-efficient, climate-friendly cooling solutions. The sessions showcased advances stemming from the **East African Community's newly adopted MEPS** and presented key tools and best practices to support national transitions to efficient, low-GWP cooling. U4E also engaged with government representatives, development partners and industry stakeholders to discuss strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing compliance, and accelerating access to sustainable cooling technologies across Africa and beyond.

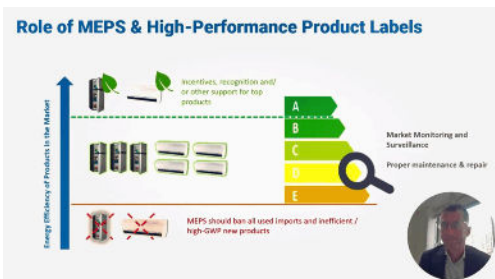
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Data Centres and Efficient Cooling in Focus at MOP37

Building on UU4E's broader engagement at MOP37, the team also hosted a session on sustainable cooling for the digital age, bringing together governments, industry and technical experts to explore ways to **reduce the rising energy and climate impacts of data centres**. The discussion highlighted the importance of efficiency standards, innovative cooling technologies and sustainable procurement practices, with U4E presenting key insights from its [Sustainable Procurement Guidelines for Data Centres and Servers](#) as tools to support national climate goals.

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U4E Showcases Cooling and Ventilation Solutions at COP30

At COP30 in Belém, U4E highlighted the critical role of efficient cooling and ventilation in delivering both comfort and decarbonisation. During a dedicated panel session, U4E and partners shared global experiences in scaling up energy-efficient, climate-friendly solutions across buildings and cooling sectors, emphasising their contributions to resilience, affordability, and emissions reductions. The discussion also showcased practical tools and policy approaches that countries can use to integrate efficient cooling and ventilation into climate strategies.

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Brazil – COP30 Preparatory Event on Energy Efficiency in HVAC-R

U4E also contributed to a COP30 preparatory event hosted by the Brazilian Industrial Development Agency (ABDI), presenting a global technical overview on energy-efficient cooling. The session highlighted international best practices on HVAC-R policies, technology trends and the role of performance standards, contributing to discussions on Brazil's pathway toward more efficient HVAC-R systems. The exchange is expected to support the development of more ambitious national energy efficiency policies and to lay the groundwork for continued technical dialogue ahead of COP30.

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Tunisia Advances Energy-Efficient Lighting with U4E Technical Training

As Tunisia moves toward the formal approval of MEPS and an energy labelling scheme through a ministerial decree, U4E, in collaboration with UNDP Tunisia and ANME, delivered a three-day technical training on energy-efficient lighting in Hammamet. The training brought together policymakers, technical experts, and industry stakeholders to strengthen national capacity on efficient lighting technologies and standards. The sessions covered international best practices in lighting, performance metrics, and hand on exercises on design tools, supporting Tunisia's transition to a more efficient lighting market and its broader energy and climate goals.

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New Resources & Upcoming Events

Energy Factsheet for COP30: UNEP has released a new series of COP30 Factsheets, with the Energy Factsheet **led by U4E**. The resource highlights that doubling energy efficiency by 2030 could deliver **40% of the emissions reductions** needed to stay on a 1.5°C pathway, while improving energy security and lowering costs. It also emphasises the critical role of efficient cooling, appliances and equipment in reducing demand and accelerating decarbonisation.

Mission Efficiency – COP30 Special Edition: U4E contributed to the COP30 special edition of Mission Efficiency with the article *From Labels to Leadership: Brazil's Journey in Energy-Efficient Refrigeration*. The piece highlights Brazil's progress in strengthening energy labelling and MEPS for refrigeration, showcasing how robust policies, industry engagement, and regional collaboration are helping accelerate the transition to efficient, climate-friendly appliances.

IEA Energy Efficiency 2025 Report: The IEA's Energy Efficiency 2025 finds that global primary-energy intensity is set to improve by **1.8% in 2025**, up from about 1% in 2024 — a sign of renewed momentum. Despite this uptick, the world remains far from the ambition agreed at COP28 in 2023, underscoring the urgent need for stronger policies, efficient cooling, appliances, and electrification to close the gap. The report highlights opportunities for improving energy efficiency across lighting, appliances, and equipment.

26 January
Nigeria Cooling Day
Lagos, Nigeria

16 – 20 February
India AI Impact Summit
New Delhi, India

23 – 27 February
2026 SADC Sustainable Energy Week
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

2 March
UK-Rwanda Climate Partnership Showcase and Green Investment
Kigali, Rwanda

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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