

Energy Efficiency – Getting more from less



UNECE

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY – GETTING MORE FROM LESS



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Improving energy efficiency contributes to energy security, better environment, quality of life, and economic well-being for all. Energy efficiency is called “the first fuel” as it is the best way of getting more out of existing resources, supporting economic growth, and reducing energy costs. Significant potential for improving energy efficiency exists worldwide but attempts to improve it often fall short because of inadequate national policy frameworks or lack of enforcement of appropriate legislation.

Despite the multiple benefits, improving energy efficiency remains elusive. The state of the global economy and the economics of energy markets have prioritized short-term economic considerations, and geopolitics has moved energy security to the forefront of policy considerations. Consequently, even though most of the countries have started to implement energy efficiency policies, the scope and the degree of maturity of these policies vary considerably. Many barriers to improving energy efficiency impede the collective ambition of attaining sustainable energy.

The UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency encourages the exchange of know-how and best practices between experts and policy makers, governments, business community, academia, civil society, and international actors on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the region. This work is undertaken collaboratively with the United Nations Regional Commissions, other international organizations and other stakeholders. The Group of Experts conducts analyses and identifies the state of development of energy efficiency in the UNECE region, based on existing data and benchmarking indicators. It highlights success stories that can be scaled up, in line with the energy efficiency objective of the sustainable energy goal and the energy efficiency aspects of the Hammamet Declaration.

The Group of Experts has developed a menu of economically viable and efficient policies, including high-impact policy measures, that could help the countries of the UNECE region (at the national and local levels) to significantly improve energy efficiency. The publication *Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency* presents a structured framework of best practices in policies to promote energy efficiency that have been proven as effective and viable under certain conditions.

Identification of UNECE member States that have implemented energy efficiency measures, conducting national case studies and development of a benchmark that should serve as a reference point for policy makers and energy experts working in the field of energy efficiency, allows both tracking and reporting of progress and providing platforms for experience sharing.

More extensive work and greater focus on best practices is required in order to improve, complete, maintain and update the menu of these high-impact policy measures, followed by the development of implementation mechanisms, that will ensure successful energy efficiency policy outcomes, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts and strengthening regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Sustainable Energy Division

UNECE's work on sustainable energy is designed to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. It promotes international policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders.

The Committee on Sustainable Energy and its six subsidiary bodies carry out concrete and results-oriented activities with the aim to achieve the specific objectives identified for each priority area:

Areas of work

- Cleaner Electricity Production
- Coal Mine Methane
- Energy Efficiency
- Natural Gas
- Renewable Energy
- Resource Classification
- Energy Security

For more information



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