

11th Global Conference on Energy Efficiency

Thematic session

Energy efficiency supporting remote and rural communities

Tuesday 30 June 2026
13:30 – 15:00
Room 520-CF

International
Energy Agency



Event background

In today's context of energy market volatility and economic uncertainty, energy efficiency remains essential for affordability, energy security and competitiveness. Rising energy prices and supply disruptions have increased the urgency to reduce demand and strengthen resilience. The 11th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency will bring together global leaders to accelerate action, while ensuring benefits reach all regions and communities.

Remote and rural communities face particular challenges due to geographic, economic and infrastructural constraints that can limit access to affordable and reliable energy. Energy efficiency can help reduce costs, strengthen resilience and improve access to reliable energy services.

Across the globe, governments are already advancing impactful initiatives, including energy-efficient retrofits, decentralised energy systems, utility-led electricity savings programmes, grid solutions and capacity-building efforts. These experiences demonstrate the value of policy frameworks that prioritise affordability and accessibility while integrating local knowledge and lived experience, including that of Indigenous Peoples.

At the same time, scaling these approaches requires more inclusive, tailored and coordinated policies. There is a growing opportunity to strengthen policy approaches that reflect the geographic, economic and infrastructural realities of these communities. Supporting governments and meaningfully engaging local communities is essential to ensure that solutions are effective, accessible and adaptable to diverse contexts.

This thematic session provides a platform to explore how countries can design and implement energy efficiency policies that better support remote and rural communities, while advancing broader energy policy objectives. Participants will learn from real-world experience, explore inclusive policy approaches and engage with stakeholders to identify solutions that can be scaled and adapted across different environments.

Objective

This session will bring together policymakers, practitioners and community representatives to explore how energy efficiency policies can better support remote and rural communities. Discussions will focus on:

- *Designing inclusive and context-specific policies:* Drawing on practical experience in policy design and implementation, including how policymakers engage with communities and reflect local geographic, economic and infrastructural realities
- *Improving affordability and accessibility:* Identifying approaches to address affordability challenges and ensure that programmes are accessible and effective in diverse local contexts
- *Scaling effective and adaptable solutions:* Highlighting successful examples and lived experiences to identify key tools and approaches that support the development of effective, inclusive and scalable policies that can be adapted to different local contexts.



Draft agenda

13:30-13:45	Opening remarks [15 min]
13:45-14:45	Panel Session [60 min] <i>This session explores how energy efficiency policies can be designed to deliver meaningful impacts in remote and rural communities, drawing on experience from initiatives that have improved affordability, strengthened resilience and expanded access to energy services. It highlights the importance of tailored and inclusive policy design, integrating the local community in the decision-making process, addressing the specific challenges of these contexts to ensure accessibility, relevance and long-term impact.</i>
14:45-14:55	Questions & Answers from the audience [10 min]
14:55-15:00	Closing remarks [5 min]

Contacts

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