

# 11<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Energy Efficiency

**Thematic session**

***Smart and efficient  
appliances  
fit for the future***

Tuesday 30 June 2026  
15:30 – 17:00  
Room 520-BE

International  
Energy Agency



## Event background

In today's context of energy market volatility and economic uncertainty, energy efficiency remains one of the most effective tools to support affordability, energy security and competitiveness. The 11th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency will bring together global leaders to accelerate action, with smart and efficient appliances highlighting the importance of demand-side solutions.

Appliances account for a growing share of global electricity demand due to electrification, rising living standards and more extreme temperatures. Improving their efficiency is essential to lowering energy bills, easing pressure on power systems and strengthening resilience.

Governments already have effective tools such as Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), labelling and incentives, which have reduced inefficient products, lowered costs and driven innovation. These policies remain essential and must continue to evolve.

At the same time, electricity markets are changing rapidly. Smart and connected appliances are no longer passive consumers: they can provide demand flexibility while maintaining service quality. Well-designed product policies can unlock this potential, reducing peak demand, improving energy security and avoiding costly grid investments.

This session will explore how countries can strengthen and modernise appliance policies to deliver affordability, security and competitiveness, while supporting more resilient and demand-responsive energy systems.

## Objective

This session will bring together senior government officials, regulators, industry leaders and civil society representatives to explore how appliance policies can evolve to ensure that smart and efficient appliances become the default choice worldwide. Using recent projects and market evidence, the discussion will focus on:

- *Future-proofing appliance policies:* Strengthening regulatory frameworks to deliver affordability, energy savings and long-term market transformation
- *Unlocking the benefits of digitisation while safeguarding affordability:* Capturing the potential of smart and connected appliances to support demand-side flexibility, while safeguarding affordability, energy security and consumer trust
- *Addressing energy security, consumer trust and implementation challenges:* Paying attention to regulatory design, implementation challenges in emerging and developing economies, and opportunities for international collaboration to accelerate progress.

## Draft agenda

<b>15:30-15:37</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b> [7 min]
<b>15:37-15:45</b>	<b>Setting the scene</b> [8 min] <i>This session will highlight what is already known about appliances and the positive impacts of adopting energy-efficient models, including their benefits for consumers, energy systems, and emissions reductions. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss key policy messages from the IEA, particularly for emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs), such as the need to support more ambitious policies, broaden the scope of appliance standards and regulations, and encourage greater regional harmonisation. In addition, the session will explore the ongoing transformation of electricity markets and what this means for developing future-proof product policies.</i>
<b>15:45-16:15</b>	<b>Panel Session 1 - Scaling what works: proven product efficiency policies</b> [30 min] <i>This session explores how proven product efficiency policies can be scaled up to deliver real-world impacts, drawing on experience from programmes that have transformed markets, mobilised industry support and delivered lasting benefits to consumers. It highlights the enabling role of ambitious requirements, regional alignment and inclusive policy design in accelerating uptake while ensuring affordability, competitiveness and consumer trust.</i>
<b>16:15-16:55</b>	<b>Panel Session 2 - Preparing product policies for a demand-flexible future</b> [40 min] <i>This session examines how product policies must evolve to enable a demand-flexible future, focusing on the regulatory frameworks that align appliance efficiency, electrification and power system needs. It explores how coordinated rules across product, grid and consumer protection authorities can unlock flexibility, guide industry innovation and ensure that demand response delivers value for households.</i>
<b>16:55-17:00</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b> [5 min]

## Contacts

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