

11th Global Conference on Energy Efficiency

Thematic session

Driving energy efficiency for a competitive industrial sector

Tuesday 30 June 2026
15:30 – 17:00
Room 517-A

International
Energy Agency



Event background

In today's context of energy market volatility and economic uncertainty, energy efficiency remains a key tool to advance affordability, energy security, and competitiveness. The 11th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency will bring together global leaders to accelerate action, with industrial energy efficiency central to reducing energy use, emissions and strengthening competitiveness.

Industry is a major driver of energy demand and economic growth. Efficiency improvements have enabled higher output with lower energy use, delivering cost savings, and productivity gains. Today, industries produce nearly 20% more value per unit of energy than two decades ago. In the G20, output has doubled since 2000 while energy use rose by only 60% as a result of efficiency gains delivering savings.

The recent slowdown in industrial efficiency progress risks weakening competitiveness. Industry has accounted for around 80% of global energy demand growth since 2019, while energy intensity has remained largely unchanged. Significant untapped potential remains across both heavy and light industry sectors, with light industry representing half of global industrial value added and two-thirds of jobs. At the same time, global investment in energy efficiency has increased by 150% since 2015, creating new opportunities for firms that both produce and use energy efficiency technologies.

The challenge for policymakers is therefore to accelerate uptake by addressing implementation barriers and strengthening regulatory frameworks. This also requires closer collaboration between governments, industry and finance, and integrating efficiency into industrial strategies.

This thematic session offers practical insights into how energy efficiency can strengthen industrial competitiveness. Participants will learn from policy and business experience, explore enabling frameworks and partnerships, and engage with stakeholders to identify actionable solutions.

Objective

This thematic session will be an interactive roundtable discussion between policy makers, financial institutions and business leaders exploring joint actions to increase energy efficiency in the industrial sector, through private and public sector cooperation. The discussion will focus on:

- *Industrial energy efficiency potential:* Highlighting the potential level of savings scale of savings still achievable in industrial energy efficiency globally and engaging key stakeholders, including policymakers, national agencies, NGOs and industry representative bodies
- *Overcoming implementation barriers:* Breaking down key barriers to implementation through practical case study presentation
- *Collaboration and global perspectives:* Informing policymakers about the benefits of cooperation with business and financial institutions, while providing a global perspective on scalable solutions

Draft agenda

15:30-16:15	Round Table Session 1 – Energy efficiency collaborations for a competitive industrial sector [45 min] <i>This session will focus on the importance of collaboration in building an efficient and competitive industrial sector. It will draw on lessons from existing initiatives and highlight what collaboration can unlock that individual firms or governments cannot achieve alone. Policy makers, business leaders, financial institutions, insurance companies, and other stakeholders will reflect on the central role of collaboration and partnerships in fostering increased industrial energy efficiency. The session will reflect the outcomes of the CEO roundtable and the Collaboration Framework for Industry.</i>
16:15-17:00	Round Table Session 2 – Actions and enablers to accelerate energy efficiency uptake and increase industrial competitiveness [45 min] <i>This session will focus on how to accelerate industrial energy efficiency to enhance industrial competitiveness. Policy makers, business leaders, financing institutes, insurance companies and other stakeholders will discuss the actions and enablers that can act to accelerate energy efficiency progress. There will be an emphasis on successful case studies and the potential for replication and expansion.</i>

Contacts

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