

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

## Thematic Sessions Overview

International  
Energy Agency



In today's context of energy market volatility and economic uncertainty, energy efficiency remains a key tool to advance energy affordability, strengthen energy security, and sustain industrial competitiveness. This urgency has been brought into even sharper focus by recent events in the Middle East, which led to a near halt in shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, causing the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market. The impacts have been felt across crude oil, refined products, LNG and other key commodities, creating severe energy supply disruptions in many countries. The current crisis demands historic action from governments, and energy efficiency has never been more important to reduce vulnerability to external shocks, strengthen resilience, and help economies navigate a period of profound uncertainty.

The 11th Global Conference on Energy Efficiency brings together global leaders from governments, industry, finance and civil society to accelerate action on energy efficiency at this critical moment. Over the two-day event, high-level panel sessions will set the strategic direction for energy efficiency, while seven, more-focussed thematic sessions will provide an opportunity to explore key topics related to energy efficiency in greater depth through more technical and practical round-table discussions.

These thematic sessions are designed to address priority challenges and opportunities across sectors and energy systems, drawing on real-world experience, policy analysis and practical examples. They will enable participants to engage directly with experts and peers, understand what works in practice, and identify concrete solutions to scale up energy efficiency.

**The thematic sessions will provide an opportunity to debate how to move from strategic commitments to effective implementation, and conference participants are strongly encouraged to attend to share their perspective to drive progress on energy efficiency faster.**

Thematic Session	Date & Time	Location	Details
<i>Buildings as active players in the energy transition</i>	30 June 2026 13:30 – 15:00	Room 517-BC	<i>This session will explore the pivotal role that grid interactive buildings can play in ensuring the security and affordability of energy systems. Discussions will examine both near-term actions to unlock demand-side flexibility and longer-term strategies to ensure buildings remain adaptable as grids evolve, as well as how to scale grid interactive buildings while balancing affordability, digitalisation, and system integration.</i>
<i>Digital and flexible demand-driven power systems</i>	30 June 2026 13:30 – 15:00	Room 520-BE	<i>This session will explore the growing importance of electricity grids, demand-side response and digitalisation in lowering energy system costs and ensuring security. It will discuss the policy, regulatory and investment conditions needed to modernise grids, unlock flexibility and accelerate deployment at scale.</i>
<i>Energy efficiency supporting remote and rural communities</i>	30 June 2026 13:30 – 15:00	Room 520-CF	<i>This session will focus on practical experiences to promote energy efficiency in remote and rural contexts, including how to engage effectively with local communities, address affordability challenges and ensure accessibility. It will also explore tools and approaches that support the development of inclusive policies that can be adapted to different local contexts.</i>
<i>Demand-side energy data: why it matters and how it can improve people's lives</i>	30 June 2026 13:30 – 15:00	Room 520-A	<i>This session will explore how stronger demand-side energy data can support energy systems, particularly in rapidly growing economies of the Global South. It will highlight the challenges of fragmented and limited data, and examine how emerging approaches, such as geospatial tools, open data frameworks and AI-enabled methods, can enable more continuous, affordable and accessible data systems.</i>
<i>New frontiers in modern and efficient data centres</i>	30 June 2026 15:30 – 17:00	Room 517-BC	<i>This session will explore how energy efficiency can support the sustainable growth of data centres in the face of rapidly rising electricity demand. It will examine how improvements in design, operation and system integration can align expansion with power system needs, as well as the role of data, metrics and transparency in informing policy, investment and operational decisions.</i>
<i>Smart and efficient appliances fit for the future</i>	30 June 2026 15:30 – 17:00	Room 520-BE	<i>This session will explore how smart and efficient appliances can deliver benefits across the energy system, and highlight key policy priorities, particularly for emerging economies. Discussions will draw on experience from successful policy programmes and will look ahead to how appliance policies must evolve in a more digitalised and electrified energy system.</i>
<i>Driving energy efficiency for a competitive industrial sector</i>	30 June 2026 15:30 – 17:00	Room 517-A	<i>This session will explore how energy efficiency can strengthen industrial competitiveness in a context of rising energy costs, growing demand and increasing global competition. It will highlight the significant untapped potential across industrial sectors, alongside practical case studies that illustrate both the opportunities and the key barriers to implementation.</i>



## Contacts

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