

Why is it important to improve the energy efficiency of equipment?

Improving energy efficiency is now recognised as the most cost-effective means to address climate change and energy security concerns. The presence of a range of market barriers prevent consumer investment in energy efficiency, requiring governments to introduce well targeted policy measures. Most governments now have a portfolio of highly successful policies for buildings and major appliances. However, the proliferation of types of electrical equipment and their growing complexity and speed to market poses new challenges for policy-makers seeking to develop appropriate policies. As the international trade in appliances grows, the exchange of information amongst countries is a cost-effective means to further improve policies and maximise energy efficiency.

What is an Implementing Agreement?

IEA Implementing Agreements provide a mechanism for governments, industry, researchers and other interested stakeholders to work together on an agreed programme of work. Participation is not restricted to IEA member countries.

What will 4E do?

The 4E (Efficient Electrical End-use Equipment) Implementing Agreement provides an international forum for governments and other stakeholders to:

- share expertise and develop understanding of electrical end-use equipment and policies; and
- facilitate co-ordination of international approaches in the area of efficient electrical end-use equipment.

Thus, 4E seeks to meet the challenges for policy makers to maximize energy efficiency on all types of non-transport electrical equipment.

How is 4E organised?

An Executive Committee of participating countries (currently including Austria, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Korea, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States) meets twice yearly to manage the work programme of 4E, which is carried out within a series of Annexes. To date 4E has one approved Annex on *Motor Systems*. New Annexes under development include, *Mapping and Benchmarking*, *Standby Power* and *Set-top Boxes*.

Does 4E duplicate activities by other organisations?

In the formation of 4E, governments have been careful to avoid duplication by insisting that before a new Annex is approved it must demonstrate a need and the value added.

4E will co-ordinate future work closely with regional and national programmes in the field, for example with the Asia Pacific Partnership, APEC and other Implementing Agreements e.g. DSM; and build on progress made in the Collaborative Labelling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP), Energy Star and other relevant efforts. 4E will also complement the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC).

Where to go for further information?

Visit the website www.iea-4e.org, or contact:

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