

# Standby Power

## Global Cooperation in Action

The 4E Standby Power Annex provides policy makers with information, tools and policies to combat energy being wasted by electronic equipment in low power modes. This briefing highlights the positive effect that visible concerted action by governments can have on reducing global energy waste.



Standby power was first identified as a significant energy issue in 1986. Experts estimate that standby energy accounts for more than 1% of global electricity consumption, and as much as 10% of residential electricity use<sup>1</sup>.

First launched in the USA in 1992, ENERGY STAR was the first national energy efficiency program to tackle standby power.

Efforts were globalised when the International Energy Agency challenged all governments to take action and adopt the goal to reduce standby consumption to below 1 watt. This plan was endorsed by G8 leaders at Gleneagles in 2005.

High-level support of this kind sends a strong message to both government agencies and industry. Since 2005, the international electronics community has been mobilised into action. Governments have been working cooperatively together through programs such as 4E and in partnership with industry.

Governments around the world have now initiated regulation and voluntary codes to address energy waste in low power modes. For example, the Republic of Korea has had great success, first introducing voluntary measures in 2005. In 2008 mandatory warning labels were adopted along with efficiency regulations for an expanding range of electronic appliances, setting challenging but achievable low power mode requirements.

### More Information

All publicly available documents produced by the annex can be accessed on the Annex website at <http://standby.iea-4e.org>.

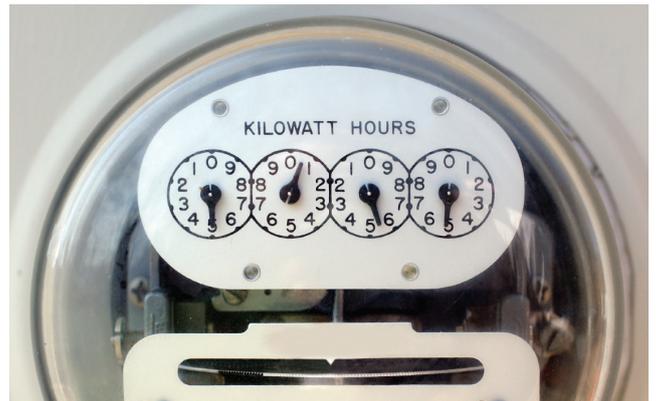
The Annex also produces a Newsletter providing regularly updates on international standby issues and events. Free subscription is available via the website.

## Observations for Policy Makers

- **Strong leadership and visible government commitment** is vital to realising lasting policy outcomes.
- **Cooperation across national jurisdictions** is essential to changing the standby power use of globally traded products.
- **Voluntary programs can assist markets respond quickly** though regulation delivers lasting results and cements energy and environmental benefits.
- **Monitoring and reviewing regulatory interventions protect consumers**, ensure a level playing field for global industry, while also conserving energy.

## Effective Global Cooperation

A decade on from the International Energy Agency announcement, standby power consumption in appliances is showing signs of decreasing<sup>2</sup>. This is the result of concerted effort over the longer term to align government approaches. In 2013, the European Union will become the first region to regulate the “off” power mode at 0.5 watts or below. This is yet another example of the capacity for government action to encourage global industry to deliver efficient low power mode energy use in electronic equipment.

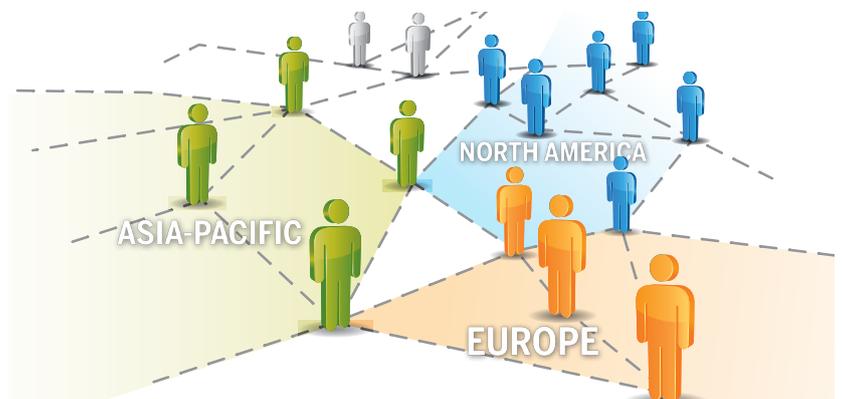


## The Threat from Networked Appliances

Over the last decade, the actions by governments have made an impact on standby power in stand-alone products. The emerging issue of networked-connected appliances wasting energy represents the next policy conundrum to be solved. Governments should be confident of solving that challenge when they provide a similar level of commitment, resourcing and cooperation.

## The Role of the 4E Standby Power Annex

The 4E Standby Power Annex can play a key role in supporting strong relationships amongst the member countries and key international industry organisations that will again lead to global alignment and energy savings.



<sup>1</sup>2010 EES, Standby Power and Low Energy Networks Issues and Directions

<sup>2</sup>2012 IEA Implementing Agreement, Standby Power Benchmarking Report.