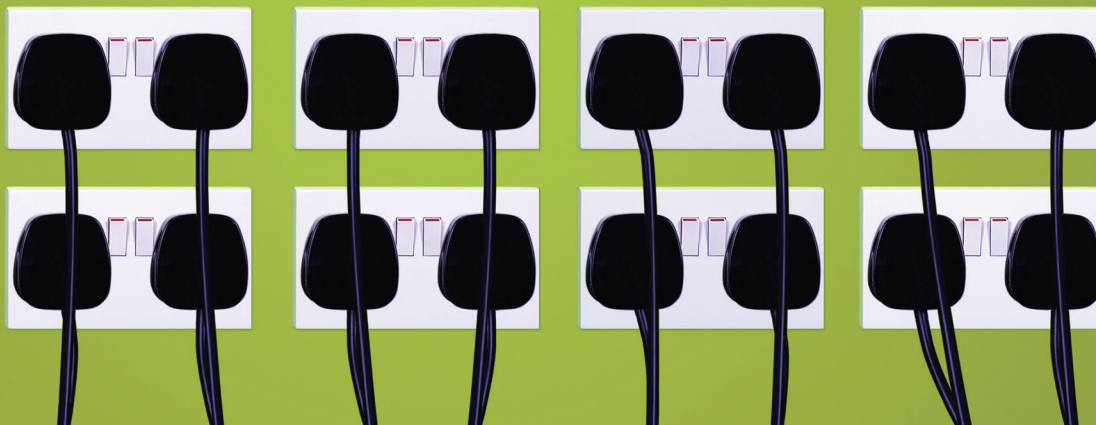


Tackling Standby Power Wastage with a Horizontal Policy Approach

The IEA's 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 explains the benefits and features of an internationally aligned horizontal policy approach to address energy wasted in standby and other low power modes.

A policy that is applied to common operational modes or functions across many different equipment types, is known as a 'horizontal' policy. Traditionally, energy efficiency product policies are 'vertical', designed to apply to individual categories of equipment.



Observations for Policy Makers

- **To increase the efficiency of appliances in low power modes**, a horizontal approach has broad coverage, can provide flexibility for governments and consistency for industry and is therefore an effective and efficient policy measure.
- **The alignment of horizontal policies for low power modes internationally** would be encouraged by establishing a central information resource containing hard limits and functional allowances.
- **The development of an international aligned approach** would require strong commitment and global cooperation from governments and industry.

More Information

4E's special report '*Provision of a Horizontal Policy Approach to Standby Power*' contains more detailed information and can be downloaded from the Annex website.

All publically available documents produced by the Annex can be accessed on the Annex website <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



Why Horizontal Policies?

To be effective in reducing energy wastage in standby and other low power modes, policies need to address the following unique attributes:

- A very wide and growing variety of products consume energy in standby power mode, ranging from toasters to desktop computers.
- While the energy waste from an individual product is small, the cumulative effect across all products is extremely significant.
- New categories of products that waste energy in standby mode are constantly under development and emerging rapidly in the market.

A horizontal policy approach can meet these challenges and has the flexibility to:

- Provide a consistent framework of principles and definitions as a basis for product research and development.
- Be applied in countries at different stages in their economic development and with different market structures.

This approach to tackling standby power currently exists in the EU.

Towards International Alignment

The 4E Standby Power Annex proposes a consensus among policy makers on a common framework to be used by individual economies to develop suitable policy initiatives. This framework would include:

- Definitions of modes and functions.
- Hard limit values: upper limits for the amount of power consumed in standby modes for all products.
- Functional allowances: additional power allowances for products with functions recognized as having additional power needs (e.g. a digital display).

The provision of multiple values for both the hard limits and functional allowances would ensure that this framework was equally applicable across different levels of economic development. Governments could choose the appropriate level for their economy and allow for graduation to lower levels of power consumption as the market developed.



Next Steps

To bring about internationally aligned horizontal policy approaches to standby and low power modes, the 4E Standby Annex is working with governments and other organisations to resolve the following outstanding issues:

- Where would the data be hosted;
- How would the information and data be governed?
- How would the information be maintained?
- How would users successfully access the data?