



Promoting Energy Efficient ACs and Low-GWP Refrigerants: Policy and Technology Approaches

SEAD Policy Exchange Forum - Webinar Overview
May 11, 2017 12:00-14:00 GMT

Countries across the world have shown great commitment and resolution in combating climate change by signing the Kigali Amendment. Countries are determined to phase down one of the most potent GHG gases: HFCs, which have thousand times more global warming potential (GWP) than CO₂. Air conditioners are becoming extremely relevant in this context, not only because they are a major source of consumption for HFCs as a refrigerant, but also because of their high energy demand. Adopting appropriate policy and technology approaches that target both efficiency and refrigerants for air conditioners could help countries to meet their emission reduction and HFC phase down goals.

Given the significant impact on climate change, the next SEAD Policy Exchange Forum (SPEX) webinar is dedicated to the discussion of high efficiency ACs and low-GWP refrigerants. The webinar is aimed to provide substantive information on the most recent developments in AC and refrigerant policies and technologies. In the upcoming SPEX webinar, experts and policymakers will share their experiences on this topic from different perspectives.

The Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD) will provide an overview of the crucial role of high efficiency air conditioners and low-GWP refrigerants and introduce some of the latest international efforts in promoting high efficiency air conditioners with low-GWP refrigerants.

The overview presentation will be followed by three case studies focusing on different areas of air conditioners and refrigerants. The first case study by LBNL will examine the impact and opportunities on efficiency improvement and refrigerant transition for room ACs, and provide a summary of the alternate low-GWP refrigerants along with their impact on energy efficiency. Directorate General Energy of the European Commission will present experience from Europe on its AC Ecodesign standards and labeling regulation, which sets requirements for both energy efficiency and refrigerants. Finally, the Ozone Action Branch of UN Environment will discuss the challenges faced in the servicing sector of developing countries for the adoption of climate friendly refrigerant alternatives to comply with the Kigali Amendment, and explore options to improve the infrastructure of the servicing sector.



Some questions for presenters to address:

- What are the latest developments on the Kigali Amendment and how should countries prepare? What is the impact of high efficiency ACs and low-GWP refrigerants for countries to meet their phase-down schedule and climate goals?
- What are the options for alternative refrigerants and what are their applications?
- How can countries use policy tools to promote the adoption of high-efficiency ACs and low-GWP refrigerants?
- What challenges will the new AC and refrigerant technologies face in terms of maintenance, servicing and repair and how should countries respond to these challenges?

Discussion questions for consideration by meeting participants:

- How will the Kigali Amendment affect the AC industry or climate and energy policies in general?
- Addressing energy efficiency and refrigerants at the same time for AC regulations could potentially maximize the GHG reduction – has this been recognized and considered by policy makers in your country? What should be done to convince policy makers to adopt this combined approach?
- What AC- or refrigerant-related regulations are already in place in your country and how can these regulations be strengthened or complemented in the post Kigali Amendment era?
- What are the major barriers and challenges to promote high-efficiency and low-GWP refrigerants ACs? How to address these barriers and challenges and what types of resources or assistance are required?
- Who are the different stakeholders for national climate policies and energy policies in your country? What mechanisms have to be in place for different stakeholders to work together in HFC phasedown? Can you share any examples in your country?

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions with policymakers and experts from around the globe.

More information on the SPEx and how to participate can be found on the SEAD website at: <http://www.superefficient.org/spex>