[EEM/Published 18.12.2025]

Accelerating Energy Efficiency by Unlocking Cross Sector Scalable Action: summary and outcomes

Date & Time : 13th November, 11.00-11.40, Swedish Pavilion (Blue Zone)
Format: Public high-level panel followed by a closed-door roundtable under Chatham House Rule
Moderators: Anna Hall Head of External Relations Energy Efficiency Movement & Julia Souder, Board Member Global Renewable Alliance, CEO Long Duration Energy Storage Council

---

Introduction
Energy efficiency is one of the most powerful and cost-effective tools available to accelerate the global energy transition. By reducing energy demand while supporting economic growth, it strengthens energy security, enhances industrial competitiveness, lowers household and business energy costs, and plays a critical role in achieving global climate goals.

To underscore this strategic importance, the Energy Efficiency Movement (EEM) convened a high-level dialogue at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, building on the momentum of the 10th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency - Event - IEA. The event brought together senior representatives from government, industry, and civil society for a broadcast session and a closed-door roundtable.

This document presents the key outcomes and insights that emerged from those discussions.

Key Takeaways from the high-level Panel

- The world is not on track to meet global energy efficiency goals. Current progress - an improvement of only 1.8% in 2025—is far below what is required to align with international climate commitments.
- Renewable energy deployment is advancing, but still not fast enough. Even though growth in renewable capacity is outpacing efficiency gains, it remains insufficient to meet the ambitions set at COP28.
- Businesses are committed but need clearer signals. Private-sector actors are ready to invest in energy efficiency, yet fragmented collaboration and unstable long-term policy frameworks are slowing deployment.
- Integrating efficiency with renewables amplifies benefits. Combining these two pillars strengthens energy security, creates jobs, and supports sustainable economic growth.
- Three shifts can significantly accelerate progress:
    - Scaling up investment by making energy efficiency a mainstream, bankable asset.
    - Harnessing digital technologies to unlock faster and more cost-effective efficiency gains.
    - Designing policies and programs that place people—workers, consumers, and communities—at the center.
- Energy efficiency needs a stronger public profile. Its benefits are proven but often invisible; raising its visibility is essential to mobilize support and investment. Energy Efficiency is a moneymaker.
- Clearer communication is needed. The many success stories showing efficiency’s economic, social, and environmental value must be shared more widely.
- Greater policy ambition and stronger public-private partnerships are critical. Accelerating efficiency at the scale required will depend on coordinated action, stable policy direction, and collaborative implementation.

Closed door roundtable highlights

1. Policy and Leadership

- *Long-term, cross-cycle policy alignment is essential. Governments should adopt stable, forward-looking energy efficiency policies that endure beyond political cycles, recognizing that efficiency delivers simultaneous benefits for consumers, businesses, and national competitiveness.*
- *Corporate leadership must elevate energy efficiency to a strategic priority. Boards and executive teams should embed efficiency into corporate strategy and track progress through clear, visible performance indicators.*
- *A unified narrative is needed. Energy efficiency should be positioned as a cornerstone of economic competitiveness, system resilience, and global decarbonization—an investment that delivers immediate and enduring returns.*

2. Integration and Implementation

- *Energy efficiency must be made investable. Technical solutions need to be paired with innovative financing mechanisms to accelerate adoption across sectors.*
- *Clear implementation roadmaps are required. Both public and private organizations should develop concrete action plans with timelines and measurable targets.*
- *National and subnational transition plans matter. Governments at all levels should define comprehensive efficiency transition pathways to guide markets and mobilize investment.*

3. Standards and Distribution

- *Harmonized standards can unlock Energy Efficiency at scale. Standards bodies should align and simplify existing frameworks to reduce complexity for industry and consumers.*
- *Strengthened value-chain collaboration is needed. Improved coordination across producers, suppliers, and distributors will accelerate deployment and reduce friction in the market.*
- *Stable policy design is critical. Policymakers should adopt long-term, predictable frameworks that provide clarity and stability for investors and innovators.*

4. Business Case and Communications

- *Energy Efficiency should be framed as a moneymaker and a superior investment. Stakeholders should emphasize cost savings, risk reduction, and strong returns, often outperforming other energy investments.*
- *Project benefits must be clearly communicated. Program owners should highlight not only energy savings but also financial gains, resilience benefits, and reduced exposure to volatility.*
- *Scaled communication campaigns are essential. Showcasing successful projects and replicable models will build momentum and public support for broader adoption.*

5. Strategic priorities

To accelerate electrification and decarbonization, there is a need for all stakeholders to commit to the following:

- ***Recognize Energy Efficiency as Foundational:***
  Energy efficiency must be treated as a core enabler for electrification and decarbonization across all sectors. Clear performance indicators should be developed to measure progress and impact.
- ***Promote Energy Efficiency for Resilience and Profitability:***
  Energy efficiency should be positioned not only as an environmental imperative but also as a driver of system resilience and long-term financial performance. KPIs need to be formulated to track resilience improvements and cost savings.
- ***Remove Financial and Technical Barriers:***
  Stakeholders must collaborate to address economic constraints and close technical gaps that hinder energy efficiency adoption. Specific KPIs should be defined to monitor the reduction of these barriers and the implementation of enabling solutions.

Action Points and Strategic Questions moving forward

- **Sustaining global momentum on the COP28 commitments.** As some countries signal hesitation about phasing down fossil fuels, what leadership role can a “coalition of the willing” - including major economies such as China - play in keeping progress on track?
- **Empowering non-state actors to drive local action.** Cities and other subnational actors are eager to advance energy efficiency but often lack the authority, financing, or tools to act at scale. What policy reforms and governance models can unlock their full potential?
- **Ensuring a just and inclusive transition**. Energy efficiency measures can provoke public resistance if costs and benefits are unevenly distributed. What mechanisms can guarantee that low-income households benefit first and most?
- **Raising the visibility of energy efficiency in strategic decision-making.** How can governments and industry package energy efficiency solutions - and the jobs, savings, and competitiveness gains they generate - to ensure they become core considerations in boardrooms and executive planning?
- **Reforming fossil fuel subsidies to accelerate progress**. Ending inefficient fossil fuel subsidies can shift investment toward cleaner and more efficient options. What policy pathways can enable this transition while protecting vulnerable groups?
- **Establishing a clear energy efficiency action framework for COP31.** What process, coalitions, and milestones are needed to deliver a robust, implementable global framework that elevates energy efficiency implementation?