Industrial energy efficiency is a critical first step in the clean energy transition. Aside from the incredible benefits for our planet and people, energy efficient technology and management practices provide numerous opportunities for businesses and the economy.

The Industrial Energy Accelerator is a UNIDO-led network of international initiatives working to inspire global action on industrial energy efficiency.
How we work

The Industrial Energy Accelerator is a UNIDO-led network of initiatives working to demonstrate the vast opportunities that industrial energy efficiency can provide for people, businesses, economies and the planet. In emerging and developing economies, our local teams of experts work in partnership with key government agencies and industry stakeholders to help drive momentum for energy efficiency. Our teams provide tailored training for industries, improved access to finance for entrepreneurs, policy advice for governments and specialized support to small and medium enterprises.

Our work is delivered across four key areas of work:

**Know-how for industry**

Drawing on UNIDO’s decades of unparalleled technical expertise in implementing industrial energy efficiency programmes, the Accelerator delivers tailored training curriculum to numerous cohorts of energy management practitioners, plant managers and auditors. This includes our widely successful ISO 50001 training programme on effective implementation of Energy Management System.

**Financing for efficiency**

The Accelerator is working with key government departments and local banks to help pinpoint and design policy instruments which can effectively mobilise finance and investment. Co-funded blended finance schemes, tax breaks, financial sector training and project bundling are just some of the many ways governments can help to simultaneously incentivise and de-risk investments into industrial energy efficiency. Other initiatives include the provision of seed funding for entrepreneurs who are attempting to develop viable low carbon technologies to enhance the uptake of industrial energy efficiency.

**Support for SMEs**

Through a series of dedicated small business interventions, including specialized training initiatives and policy advocacy, the Accelerator helps industrial micro and small to medium enterprises (MSMEs) cut down on their energy use. Industrial energy efficiency in the MSME sector has the potential to unleash masses of hidden economic potential and a significant reduction in carbon emissions. Other efforts include working with governments to introduce energy efficiency labour competency standards specifically for industrial MSMEs.

**Advocacy and policy support**

The Accelerator’s local and international experts make policy recommendations, provide technical advice and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue among industries, energy service providers, policymakers and the financial sector. This support helps governments to develop and refine regulations and standards which can encourage faster uptake of industrial energy efficiency measures. At a global level the Accelerator is lobbying to ensure that industrial energy efficiency is a central part of the international climate and energy policy agenda.

Industrial energy efficiency is largely an invisible solution.

It often comes down to technical interventions as well as changing people’s behaviours and mindsets. Retrofitting the insulation level of pipes, or replacing an old inefficient boiler is not as visible as installing solar powered panels or wind turbines.

There are also many barriers. In some countries, where sophisticated energy efficiency targets and regulations are already in place, a lack of financial incentives and market interventions such as fuel subsidies often stand in the way.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of action and awareness around what is essentially a cost-effective win-win solution for everyone involved. This is especially true for businesses and industry, which can slash power bills by up to 30 per cent.

The International Energy Agency calculates that with the right energy efficiency policies, the global economy could double in size by 2040 while still maintaining broadly the same level of energy use as today. Those policies alone would enable the world to achieve more than 40 per cent of the emissions cuts needed to reach international climate goals using cost-effective technologies which are already available.

Despite this, currently, only a handful of the national plans (National Determined Contributions) under the Paris agreement include specific energy efficiency commitments. This means there is huge room for improvement. Together with other global initiatives, like Sustainable Energy for All and the Three Percent Club, we are working to significantly increase global momentum on energy efficiency.
Where we work

The Accelerator currently operates in 12 countries responsible for over 35 per cent of the world’s energy consumption. Each of our partner countries are home to major industries with huge energy efficiency potential.

Working in-country allows the Accelerator to forge critical relationships with local governments and industry players. These partnerships enable the Accelerator to convene and build on existing work undertaken by various local and international organizations. Collaboration across sectors, stakeholders and countries is encouraged to improve knowledge sharing and collective impact.

At a global level we share our collective experience with the world, showcasing best practice through stories of impact and knowledge resources, with the aim of inspiring greater global action on industrial energy efficiency.

Don’t see your country on the map?
Contact us to find out how we can join forces and make industrial energy efficiency a reality in your region.
Take action on industrial energy efficiency

As efforts to mitigate climate change become ever more critical, the Industrial Energy Accelerator is calling for policymakers and the private sector to embrace the numerous advantages and enormous potential of energy efficiency.

In addition to the environmental contribution, energy efficiency in the industrial sector can advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes increased disposable income and economic growth, enhanced industrial productivity, and improved local air quality with the associated health benefits.

Help us make this invisible solution visible!

Visit
www.industrialenergyaccelerator.org

Contact
Rana Ghoneim, R.Ghoneim@unido.org, to find out how you can collaborate or support the Industrial Energy Accelerator.