



Climate action kit

Case study

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Germany

Germany does it efficiently

The risks to Germany from the consequences of global warming have been known for a long time and were comprehensively identified in the climate impact and risk analysis for Germany. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption must be significantly reduced, and energy efficiency must increase. After all, energy efficiency is the cleanest and most affordable source of energy.

The German Energy Efficiency Strategy 2050

With the Energy Efficiency Strategy 2050, the German Government for the first time sets a target for the reduction of primary energy consumption by 2030, bundles corresponding measures and initiates a broad-based stakeholder process for the further development of energy efficiency policy.

In terms of energy efficiency, the German government aims to shape the German economy into the most energy-efficient economy in the world and, in doing so, to drastically reduce primary energy consumption by 2050. The strategy sets the course for more energy efficiency in Germany and makes an important contribution to the implementation of energy and climate policy goals at national, European, and international level.

IEC standardization

The efficiency of household electrical appliances and their environmental impact is getting rapidly increasing attention worldwide.

Germany is actively contributing to IEC standardization work done by a.o. [IEC TC 59](#): Performance of household and similar electrical appliances, and its eight subcommittees. Together with many experts from various countries more than 250 experts and about 25 officers and convenors from Germany develop International Standards on methods to determine performance and energy efficiency of electrical appliances for household use or for commercial use.

The global trend towards regulation concerning product and energy efficiency leads to an increased demand for measurement methods. To avoid multiplication of efforts to serve national and regional regulation and testing demand, a common and accepted set of International Standards is the goal of the joint efforts in IEC as a global group of technical experts.

IEC International Standards, together with testing and certification, help countries and industries to adopt more sustainable technologies. They also help strengthen the disaster resilience of infrastructure, reducing disaster risks, accelerating recovery and overall impact.

IEC International Standards' support to European legislation

The Ecodesign Directive is a European success story in terms of energy savings and now also in terms of resource efficiency. It ensures that all actors in the EU act according to the same rules and is largely supported by IEC International Standards.



With the publication of new regulations for refrigerators ([IEC 62552](#)), washing machines ([IEC 60456](#)), tumble dryers ([IEC 61121](#)), dishwashers ([IEC 60436](#)), televisions ([IEC 62087](#)) and lamps ([IEC 62442](#)), the course is set for more eco-design and more energy efficiency. According to the EU Commission's estimate, the new regulations will save around 167 terawatt hours of energy per year by 2030.

Now the Ecodesign Directive, which regulates the minimum requirements for the environmentally sound design of energy-related products within the EU, also addresses standards for resource efficiency. The aim is to extend the service life of appliances and to facilitate their maintenance, reuse, and recycling.

The familiar energy labels that provide information on the energy efficiency class remain. However, much stricter values now apply to household electrical appliances. As an incentive for manufacturers to further develop their appliances through further innovations, the requirements have been chosen in such a way that at first efficiency class A and sometimes also efficiency class B will remain free.

