



# Key Takeaways from the Berlin Energy Efficiency Day 2025: From Potential to Momentum

## High Level Welcoming Remarks by BMWK State Secretary Stefan Wenzel:

- Energy efficiency is a central aspect of improving energy and national security, reducing dependencies in such uncertain times. This is more vital now than in recent decades, as the unlawful Russian attack on Ukraine has brutally upended the security of our energy supply. Concentrated supply chains and dependency on fossil fuel imports have exposed the vulnerability of national security and the current model of economic growth.
- Energy efficiency presents a historic stimulus for economic growth with the potential to create a trillion-dollar market, foster new job growth, save consumer costs on an unprecedented scale, and drive productivity across the entire economy.

## Keynote by Jerome Bilodeau, IEA:

- Demand growth in industry, as well as increased cooling needs in hot regions, is expected to keep energy demand growth steady in 2024.
- Policymakers have started to respond to the COP28 commitment to double global energy efficiency progress, but energy intensity improvement in 2024 remains sluggish.
- End-use sector investment in efficiency and electrification is expected to increase by around 4% in 2024.
- Efficient electrification can reduce energy use by more than two-thirds for most end-use technologies.
- IEA launches new Energy Efficiency Progress Tracker.
- Early actions to drive energy efficiency progress by 2030: accelerate policy implementation, scale up investment and address shortages of skilled workers.

## Session 1: EE Hub - Financing Building Retrofits:

Contact: [Ludwig Labuzinski](#)

Presentation: The slides are available on the [EE Hub Website](#).

- The global doubling target is a recognition of the essential role of energy efficiency in meeting climate goals. Improving the energy performance of existing buildings is integral to meeting that goal, yet progress is extremely slow. We need to do better.
- In principle, financing exists for investing in building energy renovation but enabling that money to flow takes both appropriate financing mechanisms and matching policy measures—as well as stable political support and adjustments to adapt to changing circumstances.
- Our session gave an overview of the major types of financing mechanisms that have been used, with some discussion of the enabling policies for each, and examples of programmes that implemented these mechanisms. This is a prelude to a series of sessions that the Energy Efficiency Hub will hold over the coming year to go into more depth in selected mechanisms, to support government officials around the world who are responsible for such programmes.





## Session 2: AwaNetz/Deneff EDL Hub - Data Centres:

Contact: [Valentina Fröhlich](#)

Presentation: Please find the presentation attached to this email.

In our panel two internationally operating data centers, representatives from EU-COM DG Energy, IEA and market participants discussed on how to use energy efficiency in order to balance the dynamic growth of data centers. The panel was summarized:

- Germany is recommended to provide an overall strategy and a coordinated approach for the facilitation of the allocation of data centers – this would allow to facilitate the allocation process, the use of waste heat, the availability of power much better.
- Some countries in the EU have improved programs on the coordination of the infrastructure topics end to end for datacenters.
- The panel recommends also to set up a collaborative dialogue between data centers, heating service providers and TSO
- The role of energy efficiency should be well considered in order to avoid a steep increase of the power demand

## Session 3: Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC) – [Buildings Global Status Report 2024/25](#):

Contact: [Hanane Hafroui](#)

- From the 2024 Buildings Global Status Report, we learned that bridging the US\$1.1 trillion investment gap in building energy efficiency is crucial to achieving global climate targets—and that annual efficiency investments must double to keep us on track.
- We examined successful case studies from the UAE, China and South Africa, illustrating that a well-rounded strategy—featuring stable policies, financial and non-financial incentives, strategic partnerships and workforce upskilling—can overcome policy gaps and significantly accelerate energy efficiency.
- Most importantly, the event sparked rigorous debate among stakeholders spanning the entire supply chain, all calling for a shared commitment and closer collaboration—precisely the vision behind the GlobalABC

## Session 4: IEEKN – Energy Efficiency Networks:

Contact: [Marlene Kuschmann](#); [Coordinating Office IEEKN](#)

- This session explained the general concept of energy efficiency networks, its history and showcased their worldwide success.
- Brazil, Mexico and Germany shared practical experiences of energy efficiency networks, national adaptations of the network model as well as future plans.
- Energy efficiency networks are one of the most successful voluntary business initiatives to support energy efficiency improvements in all sectors of the economy.
- They help companies to lower energy consumption, reduce carbon emissions, meet requirements of the ISO 50001 standard, and thus, improve their competitiveness.
- Energy efficiency networks are also a tool for governments for a direct exchange with the business sector.



## Closing Plenary: Mission Efficiency / RMI – Spotlight on energy efficiency globally:

Contact: [Chiara Gulli](#)

Presentation: Please find the presentation attached to this email.

- During the session, participants will have identified the priority levers to accelerate energy efficiency progress in 2025, with a particular focus on new strategies and what makes this time more fruitful to turn the tide on energy efficiency. The session is a catalyst to spur innovative ideas and strategies, building on the in-depth technical discussions hosted during the day.
- Some critical levers were emphasized: collaboration across public and private stakeholders; integration of different applications for more circularity, like the use of data centers waste heat for district heating, adaptation of successful lessons to local context like in the Industrial Energy Efficiency networks; and cross-stakeholders partnerships to support radical innovation in technology - an example is the Global Cooling Prize where RMI, Mission Innovation and the Govt of India have partnered to incentivize innovation in residential cooling. Finally, there is a need to integrate the messages on energy efficiency with the renewables energy and resource efficiency priorities, with affordability and energy security as key benefits of the transition
- Different factors hint at this being a critical time to turn the tide on efficiency, such as persisting energy security concerns, fear of a return of inflation, major cost reductions in energy efficient clean technologies, NDCs being revised, and the announcement at COP29 of the UAE announced plans to establish a “Global Energy Efficiency Alliance
- We believe that a united energy efficiency community across public sector, businesses and civil society organizations can deliver on the doubling down target of energy efficiency

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action would like to warmly thank the [Energy Efficiency Hub](#), the [Global ABC](#), [AwaNetz/Deneff EDL Hub](#), [IEEKN](#), [Mission Efficiency](#), and the [Rocky Mountain Institute](#) for hosting a session at the Berlin Energy Efficiency Day 2025. We also extend our gratitude to all speakers for their insightful contributions. The results of the Energy Efficiency Day are incorporated into the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue on March 18 and 19 as well as into the upcoming international conferences on our way to COP30 in Bélem.

