Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Summary Notes
EEAP WEBINAR 25

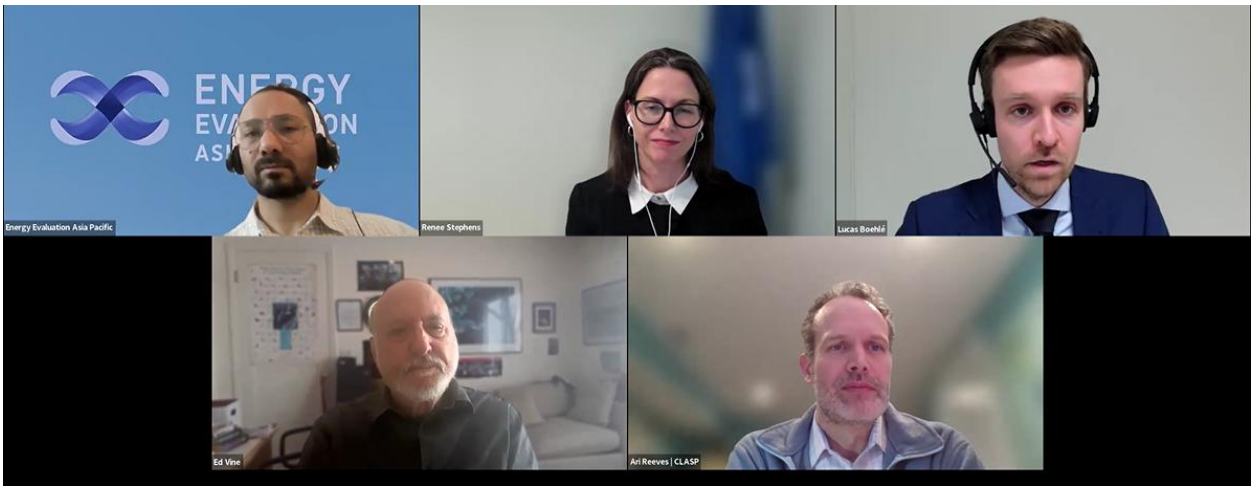
IEA's 2025 Energy Efficiency Report and the Energy Efficiency Progress Tracker

On March 3, 2026, the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) organized its 25th webinar, focusing on the topic of '**Insights from IEA's 2025 Energy Efficiency Report and Energy Efficiency Progress Tracker'**.

The session featured two speakers from International Energy Agency:

- **Lucas Boehlé**, Energy Efficiency Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)
- **Renee Stephens**, Energy Efficiency Analyst, International Energy (IEA)

The session was structured around opening remarks and context setting by Edward Vine, followed by presentations from Lucas Boehlé and Renee Stephens of the IEA. Lucas presented recent global and regional trends in energy efficiency and highlighted key findings from the 2025 report, while Renee explained how the Progress Tracker can be used to monitor energy efficiency trends across countries, regions, and sectors. This document summarizes the key discussion points from the webinar.



Webinar Agenda

Time (CET)	Sessions/Speakers
6:00-6:05 PM	Welcome Remarks & Context Setting Edward Vine, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)
6:05-6:40 PM	**Presenters** 1. **Lucas Boehlé**, Energy Efficiency Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA), "***IEA's 2025 Energy Efficiency report***" **2. Renee Stephens**, Energy Efficiency Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA), "**IEA's Energy Efficiency Progress Tracker**"
6:40-6:55 PM	Moderated Audience Q&A, Edward Vine,
7:00 PM	Concluding Comments & Vote of thanks

Introduction and Context Setting

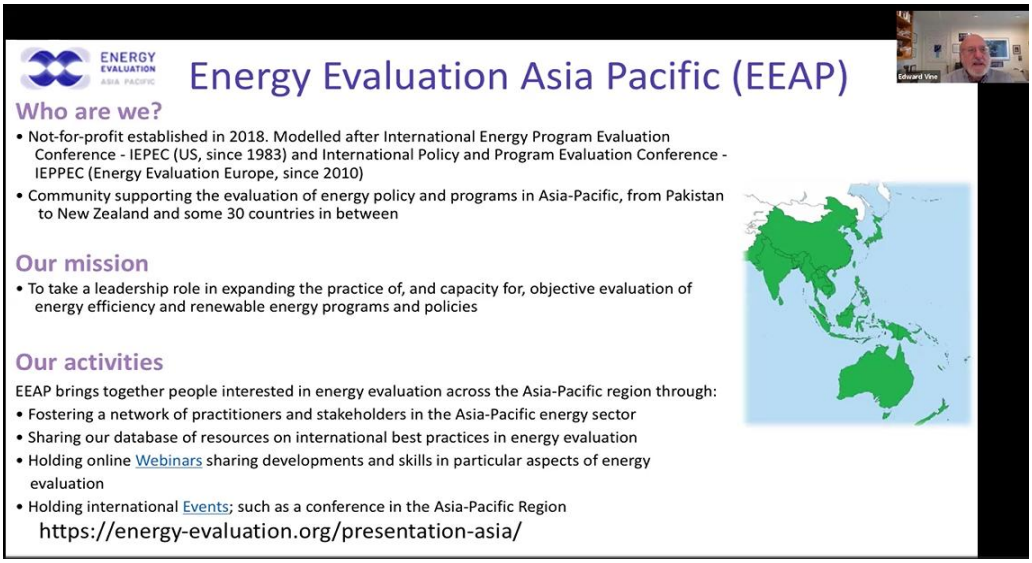
Edward Vine, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Ed greeted the participants and speakers, introduced EEAP and provided a context for the webinar.

Introduction to Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Ed introduced EEAP to the participants. Established as a non-profit organization in 2018, and modelled after IEPEC (US, since 1983) and IEPPEC (Europe, since 2010), EEAP is focused on expanding the practice of objective evaluation in the Asia Pacific region. EEAP's mission is to lead in expanding evaluation practices, building capacity, and understanding the impact of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and policies, aiming to provide a strong evidence basis for continuous improvement in these areas.

EEAP fosters exchange and interaction among evaluators, NGOs, government agencies, and academics to promote the value of energy evaluation and capacity building. EEAP offers a database of resources on best practices, holds webinars on various topics, and organizes international events and conferences, particularly in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EEAP brings stakeholders together to support data-driven decision-making in the energy sector. One of its main objectives is capacity building, especially in the rapidly growing Asia Pacific region.



Edward also reflected on why evaluation matters now more than ever. Drawing on wider debates about science, risk, and public trust, he underscored that societies are facing unprecedented technological and environmental challenges, from climate change to artificial intelligence, and that evidence-based decision-making is indispensable in such a context. At the same time, he warned that weakening public trust in science and research institutions poses risks for effective policymaking and long-term societal adaptation. Against this backdrop, he positioned evaluation as a critical function for ensuring that decisions remain grounded in credible evidence.

Finally, Edward framed the relevance of the day's topic by noting the long-standing and supportive relationship between EEAP and the IEA. He expressed appreciation for the IEA's continued engagement and introduced the two speakers, Lucas Boehlé and Renee Stephens, who would present on the IEA's latest energy efficiency report and tracking tool.

Presentation by Speakers

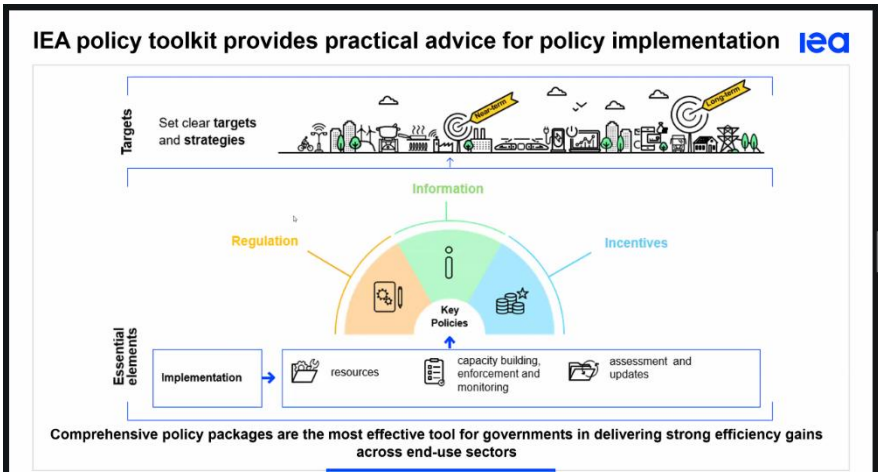
1. "IEA's 2025 Energy Efficiency report"

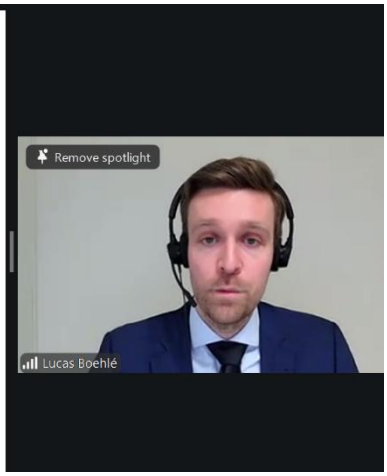
Lucas Boehlé, Energy Efficiency Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)

Lucas Boehlé began by outlining how the IEA tracks energy efficiency through changes in primary energy intensity, which reflects how much energy is used to produce economic output. He showed that global progress has fluctuated considerably in recent years. After weak progress during 2020 and 2021, a jump in 2022 was followed by slower improvement in 2023 and 2024. For 2025, however, the IEA estimates a stronger improvement of around 1.8%, signalling a renewed uptick in energy efficiency progress, though still below what is required to meet global ambitions.

A particularly relevant message for the audience was the strong contribution of Asia-Pacific to this 2025 improvement. Lucas highlighted that China, India, and ASEAN countries are playing a major role in driving global progress. China's annual improvement rate in 2025 is estimated to rise sharply compared to its earlier performance this decade, while India also shows a significant jump. ASEAN countries likewise show stronger improvement than their recent average. This made Asia-

Pacific one of the key regions underpinning positive global movement in energy efficiency this year.
Lucas also discussed policy momentum, noting that more than 250 new or updated energy efficiency-related policies were introduced globally in 2025, with over 80 of these across Asia-Pacific and Southeast Asia. These policies span buildings, industry, transport, and appliances, with examples including increased funding for energy efficiency in Australia, action on efficient heat pumps in China, electric vehicle promotion in Korea and Malaysia, and legislative amendments in Vietnam. He linked this growing policy activity to the wider international attention energy efficiency has received since COP28, where governments agreed to aim for doubling the annual global rate of energy efficiency progress by 2030. Still, he cautioned that the world remains off track for that target.





To explain why progress is still not fast enough, Lucas pointed to two structural challenges. First, since 2019, around two-thirds of global energy demand growth has come from industry, while energy intensity improvement in industry has slowed sharply. Second, policy ambition has lagged behind technological progress, meaning that many products sold in the market remain closer to minimum standards than to the best available technology. He used air conditioners as a clear example, noting that rapidly rising cooling demand, especially in countries such as India, is increasing electricity demand significantly. He concluded by emphasizing that faster progress will require stronger policy action: both by raising the ambition of existing policies and by filling policy gaps where standards and measures are still missing.

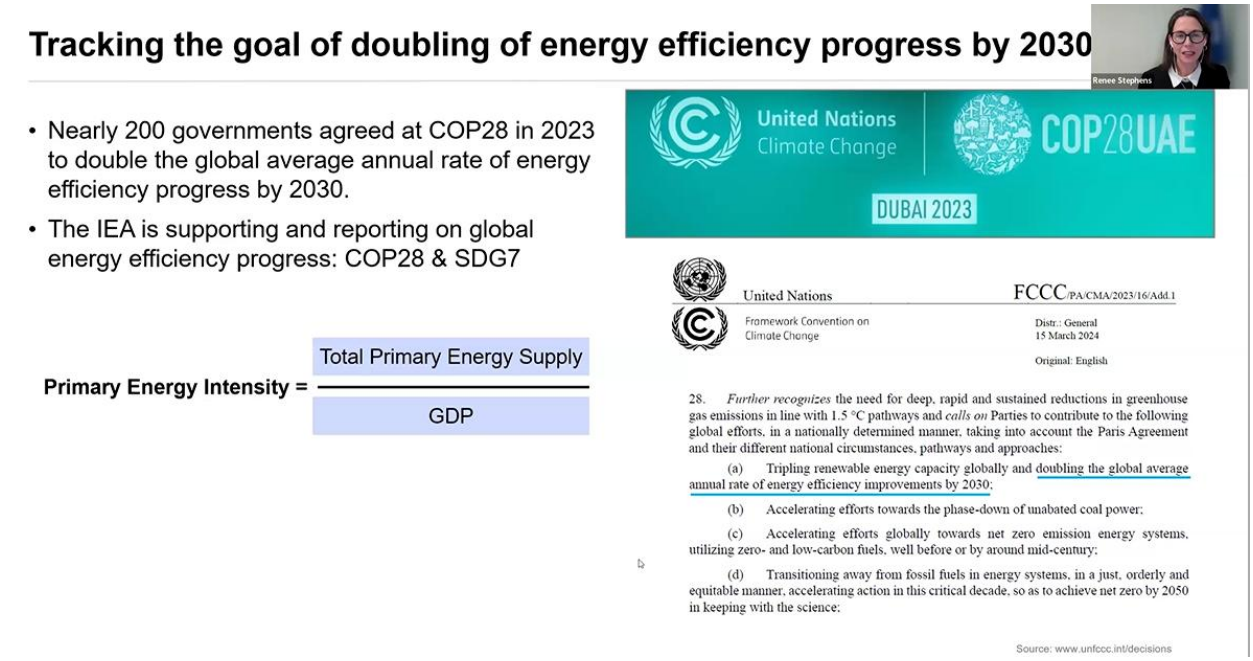
Key takeaways

- Global energy efficiency progress is improving in 2025, and Asia-Pacific is a major driver of that improvement, but the world is still not on track to meet the COP28 doubling target.
- Slower industrial efficiency gains and the gap between technological progress and policy ambition are two major reasons why progress remains below what is needed.

2. “IEA’s Energy Efficiency Progress Tracker”

Renee Stephens, Energy Efficiency Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA),

Renee Stephens focused on how the IEA is tracking progress on energy efficiency and introduced the Energy Efficiency Progress Tracker as a practical companion to the annual report. She explained that nearly 200 governments agreed at COP28 to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency progress by 2030, and that the tracker helps monitor progress not only against that commitment, but also against Sustainable Development Goal 7.3. She stressed that tracking matters because energy efficiency underpins clean energy transitions, competitiveness, economic growth, job creation, energy security, and affordability.



Renee also emphasized that energy efficiency cannot be approached through a one-size-fits-all lens. Economies differ in their contexts, priorities, and economic structures, so interpretation of data must account for these differences. She explained the main indicators used in the tracker, especially primary energy intensity and final energy intensity, and clarified that energy efficiency spans multiple pathways and sectors, including electrification, fuel switching, renewables, clean cooking, technical efficiency, and avoided demand across industry, buildings, transport, and power systems. This framing helped participants understand the broader analytical basis behind the tracker.

In demonstrating the tracker, Renee showed how users can explore historical data, recent market estimates, and IEA scenarios at global and regional levels. She highlighted that the 2025 edition includes a new industry sector module, offering historical global and regional insights into energy intensity and consumption patterns, and global insights in heavy and light industry consumption trends. The tracker also provides data on the historical average energy intensity levels and progress of economies with regions, enabling users to understand economy- and regional-level variations in light of local contexts. She noted that the tool helps users move beyond headline figures and examine how economic structure and sector composition shape energy efficiency outcomes.

Renee pointed in particular to the importance of Asia-Pacific in the current global picture. Using the tracker, she showed that the region's estimated 2025 annual improvement in primary energy intensity stands above the global average, underlining its growing significance in global energy efficiency progress. She concluded by reflecting on what the report and tracker mean for energy evaluation. While the insights are high-level, they offer valuable entry points for evaluators to explore how policies, markets, and technologies interact across different sectors and contexts. She encouraged participants to use these insights to ask more targeted evaluation questions and also invited data, suggestions, and feedback for future IEA work, including the next edition of the report.

Key takeaways:

- The Energy Efficiency Progress Tracker is a useful tool for monitoring progress toward global goals while also enabling deeper regional, and economy-level analysis.
- A new module in the tracker provides deeper insights into industry sector trends, an important focus area given the sector's dominant role in driving global energy demand growth since 2019.
- Energy efficiency data must always be interpreted in context, and the tracker can help evaluators and policymakers better understand economy-specific and sector-specific opportunities and gaps.

Presenters' Bio

Renee Stephens

Energy Efficiency Policy Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)

Renee Stephens is an Energy Efficiency Policy Analyst at the International Energy Agency (IEA), supporting the Agency's work on energy efficiency policy, indicators, and progress tracking. She contributes to IEA analysis and engagement on energy efficiency trends and implementation, including work linked to the Energy Efficiency report series and related tracking tools. Renee has also supported regional policy discussions and capacity-building on demand-side data and energy efficiency indicators.

Lucas Boehlé, Energy Efficiency Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)

Lucas Boehlé is an Energy Efficiency Analyst at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris, where he contributes to the Agency's flagship analysis on energy efficiency markets, policy progress, and tracking. He has been closely involved in the IEA's annual Energy Efficiency reporting and related tracking tools, supporting governments and stakeholders with data-driven insights on progress and priorities. Before joining the IEA, he worked as a senior policy advisor on energy efficiency for the Government of the Netherlands.

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