

Background Note

Embedding Energy Efficiency while phasing-down HFCs

At MOP 28, held in Kigali, Rwanda in 2016, countries agreed to amend the Montreal Protocol to include two important decisions – first is to include HFCs under its ambit and to set phase-down schedules for HFCs. Second is to include maintaining and/or enhancing energy efficiency in RACHP sectors, including in High Ambient Temperature countries (HAT) conditions, while phasing down HFCs as per decision XXVIII/3 of the Kigali Amendment. This is a progressive move especially as we move ahead from assessing the Ozone Depleting Potential to assessing the Global Warming Potential.

In order to understand and finalize the modalities for including energy efficiency and addressing issues related to technical and financial support on energy efficiency while implementing the Kigali Amendment, elaborate deliberations and decisions were taken during OEWG 39 meeting in Bangkok, and MOP29 meeting in Montreal in 2017. In the ensuing discussions, the need to articulate priorities for further work in the domain of energy efficiency to provide clear guidance on issues related to maintenance, installations and leakage, low-GWP alternatives and energy efficiency opportunities, technical and financial needs, quantification of environmental benefits, addressing needs of HAT conditions, and servicing sector requirements were put forward by several countries.

India, domestically, is taking ambitious strides forward to address the cooling needs through an integrated approach by expressing its intent to set up a National Cooling Action Plan (NCAP). The NCAP aims to look at both reducing cooling demand through better building design and enhancing energy efficiency of equipment while lowering the GWP of refrigerants.

However, the key challenges around operationalizing energy efficiency within the Montreal Protocol still remain. There are concerns around the future refrigerants, capital and operating costs due to embedding energy efficiency within the Montreal Protocol, R&D capacities and adequacy of skills.

In the light of the above, TERI supported by its partners is holding a workshop to develop a common understanding on energy efficiency and its integrations with the Kigali Decision on phasing down of HFCs.