



Energy efficiency, climate-friendly cooling for a just and equitable energy transition

Time: 25 October 2023, 15h25 to 16h35 – Duration: 70 mins

Where: Contadora III, Mariott Panama Hotel, Panama City, Panama

Organizers: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), COP28 UAE Presidency, UNEP-led Cool Coalition, UNFCCC High-Level Champions Team

Overview

The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is facing the adverse consequences of climate change, including rising temperatures and an increased frequency of heatwaves. Higher temperatures are triggering a notable increase in peak electricity demand during summer with more extensive use of air conditioners in the region. Access to sustainable cooling solutions is therefore crucial for ensuring the well-being, productivity, and resilience of communities and economies.

Yet 65.5 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to cooling. We need to increase access to those who don't have access to safe food and medicine or to protect themselves against extreme heat. In a hungry world, an estimated 14 per cent of total food produced is lost before it reaches the consumer, due to inadequate refrigeration and cold chains. To address these challenges, there is a pressing need for an increased understanding of the importance of sustainable cooling within LAC's climate action agenda.

Against this backdrop and recognizing the adaptation and mitigation benefits of sustainable cooling, the COP28 Presidency of the United Arab Emirates is spearheading the Global Cooling Pledge with support from the UNEP-led Cool Coalition. The implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) could avoid up to 0.5 °C of global warming by the end of this century. By achieving the Global Cooling Pledge, the climate benefits can be doubled while saving 86 billion tonnes CO₂e between now-2050, improving the lives of hundreds of millions, and realizing huge financial savings.

This event aims to demonstrate leadership and progress from the LAC region in accelerating the transition to sustainable cooling in the run up to a Cool COP28. It will showcase regional commitments to the Global Cooling Pledge and will include high-level interventions from countries, industry and international financial institutions on their actions on sustainable cooling and their perspectives on the Global Cooling Pledge ahead of COP28.



Objective:

- **Promote Sustainable Cooling Awareness:** Increase awareness of sustainable cooling's significance in the LAC's climate action efforts and its potential to contribute to regional sustainable development goals. Share policy frameworks, regulations, and financial mechanisms that can accelerate sustainable cooling technologies and their benefits.
- **Showcase Leadership:** Highlight and amplify LAC countries' innovative and sustainable cooling technologies, policies, and initiatives in the region, emphasizing commitments vital for achieving sustainable cooling in preparation for COP28, and stimulate collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders.
- **Amplify the Global Cooling Pledge:** Highlight regional champion countries and priority actions related to the Global Cooling Pledge. Provide a platform for LAC nations to influence and encourage commitments essential for achieving sustainable cooling in the run up to COP28.
- **Capacity Building:** Identify capacity-building needs and opportunities for training and skills development in the field of sustainable cooling within the LAC region. Highlight sustainable cooling as a significant potential outcome for regional climate events and underscore its importance in achieving both development and climate goals.

Contacts for the Event

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