COP31 | VIET NAM PAVILION

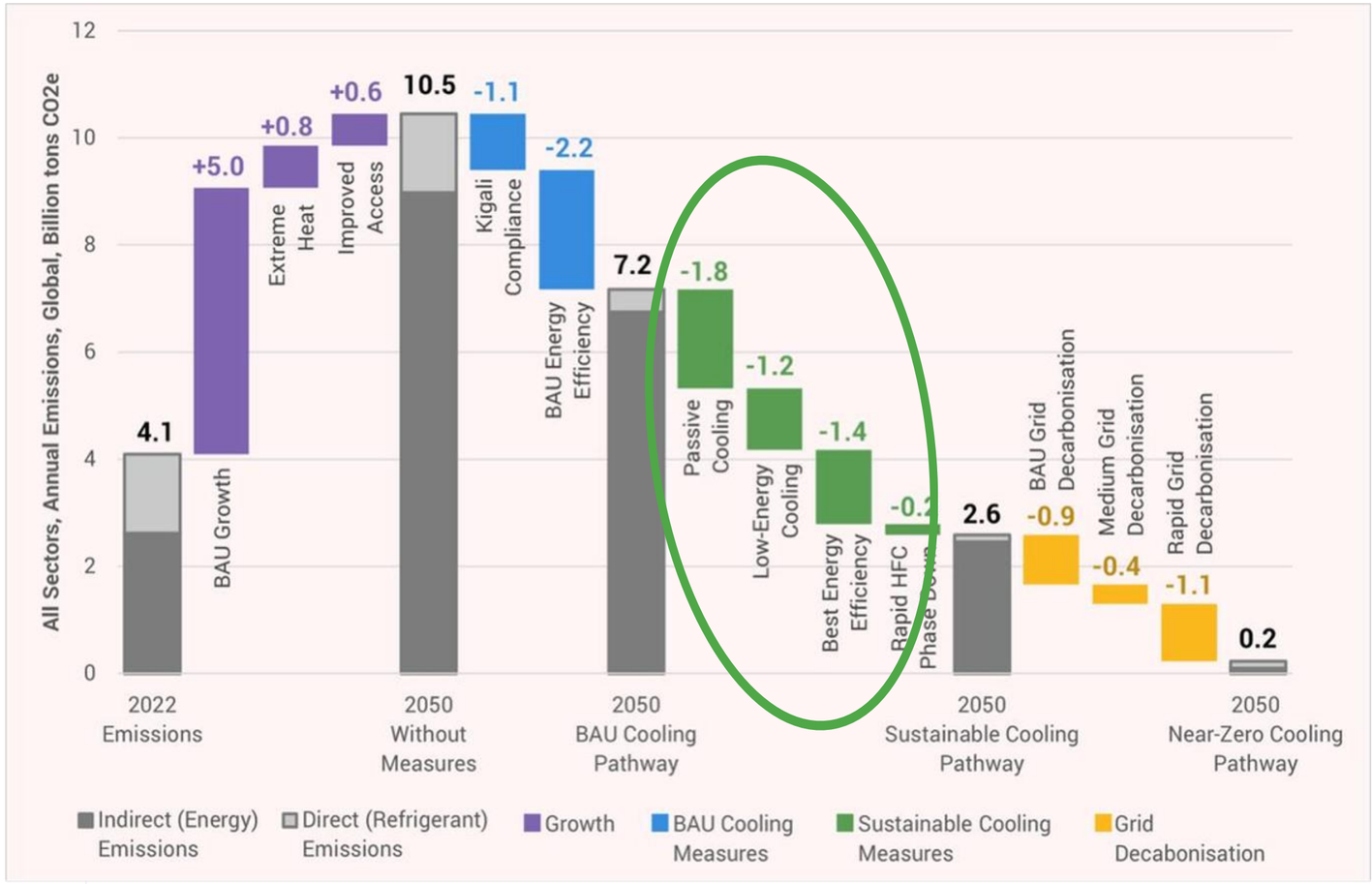
Accelerating Climate Action through Sustainable Cooling

Lily Riahi

Head of Buildings and Cooling Unit, Head of Cool Coalition, UNEP

14 November | 12:00-13:00

Global Cooling Watch: modelling a Sustainable Cooling Pathway



The Global Cooling Pledge



- **Commit to** work together to support increased market penetration of highly efficient air conditioning equipment and innovative technologies
- **Commit to** establish Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) by at the latest 2030
- **Commit to** energy efficiency of air conditioners sold to be at least 50% better than the current installed efficiency by 2030 in all markets
- **Commit to** pursue the life cycle management of fluorocarbons in particular addressing HFCs banks, if feasible, such as through the Initiative on LRM

Viet Nam’s Leadership on Cooling

25%

of Viet Nam’s electricity used for cooling

Without action electricity demand for cooling will triple by 2050

65 $MtCO_2e$

of cooling emissions in 2022 – 14% of national emissions

without action this will nearly double by 2045

97%

of cooling emissions to be reduced by 2050

action on urban heat, passive cooling, efficiency, refrigerants and grid decarbonisation

Viet Nam's Legal Framework on Sustainable Cooling

- **Strategic Alignment on Sustainable Cooling – breaking siloes**



- **Targets, Strategy and Roadmap**

  NDC 2022 update - targeted net-zero 2050 with full emissions from cooling and heat adaptation needs. Incorporated into National Strategy on Climate Change

  Global Cooling Pledge commitments - 2023

  Prime Minister Decision 496/QD-TTg defining a National Plan on Management of ODS & controlled GHGs (2024)

    Defines a Roadmap for Sustainable Cooling to meet Global Cooling Pledge commitments.

    Defines ‘Sustainable Cooling’ and defines progression to mandates for passive and nature cooling, HFC phase-down, efficient equipment and urban heat mitigation.

  NCAP revised in 2025 and now includes passive cooling and cold chain



Viet Nam's Legal Framework on Sustainable Cooling

Law on Environmental Protection (2020) and legal binding Decrees and Circulars

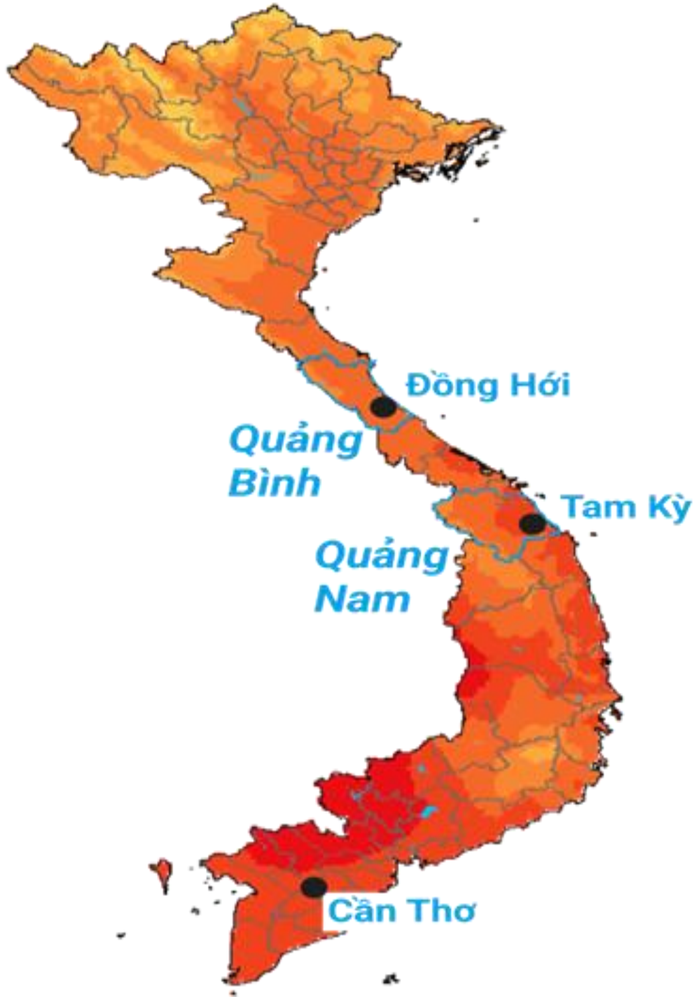
- Sets out GHG emission thresholds for major emitters including large consumers of cooling and refrigerants such as large commercial buildings
- Helps establish domestic Carbon Market with legal pathways for participating in international carbon markets including for cooling
- Defines Equipment Phase-Outs; End-of-Life Lifecycle Management; Mandatory Technician Qualifications; Emissions Mitigation and Reporting.
- Legal framework established for significant cooling emission reductions



Subnational Action: Urban Cooling Approaches

Urban Cooling Action Plans

- Developed with one Tier I city (Can Tho) and one Tier 2 city (Tam ky) – created national replicable model
- Defines strategy to reduce cooling emissions and deliver heat resilience – targeting hotspots
- Policy roadmap, project pipelines and finance mechanisms
- Feasibility studies for 10 million square-metres of development
- Informed Prime Minister Decision for National Plan on Management of ODS & controlled GHGs – now includes:
    - By 2030, all Tier-I and Tier-II cities must have dedicated, operational plans to reduce heat island (UHI) effect and take action on cooling – including passive cooling, efficient and low-GWP equipment and nature
- Subnational action strengthened by national GHG emission requirements for large buildings and industries in cities



Priority areas for action 2026-2030

1. **Domestic Carbon Market** (Environmental Protection Law) – Guidance to large buildings to quantify, report and reduce cooling emissions, unlock finance and enhance refrigerant handling
2. **Urban Cooling and Heat Resilience** - Expand technical support to Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities to develop Urban Cooling Action Plans and to unlock municipal finance.
3. **Equipment efficiency** - Upgrade MEPS and Energy Labels for cooling equipment and appliances
4. **Demand aggregation -** Aggregate subnational government and private sector procurement of cooling equipment and link with manufacturers to accelerate efficiency and refrigerant phasedown
5. **Demonstrate new approaches** of Cooling as a Service, Demand Flexibility and District Cooling
6. **Upgrade building codes** to incorporate passive cooling standards and design enforcement and incentives as well as green finance for developers and homeowners
7. **Integrate passive cooling into public buildings for social protection** – including social and worker housing, and schools
8. **Skilling:** Expand and deepen skilling and capacity programmes for HVAC, developers and planners

ASEAN and regional implementation

20–50%

potential energy savings

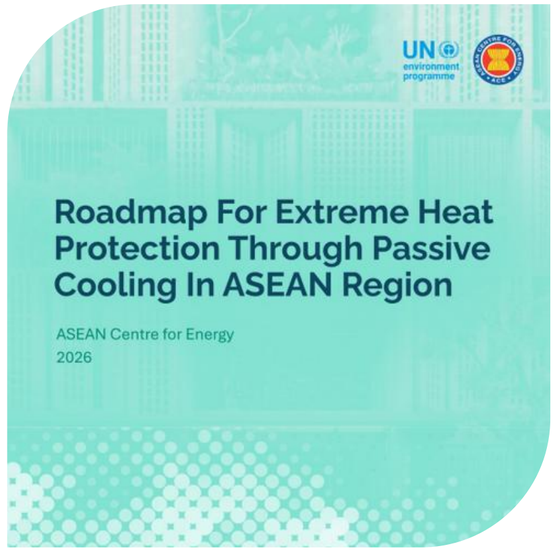
through passive cooling in the ASEAN regional roadmap

ASEAN ROADMAP | APRIL 2026

Passive first. Shade, ventilation, cool roofs and better buildings.

CAN THO + TAM KY

Urban Cooling Action Plans adopted. Investment projects identified.



Heat Resilience Roadmap

Country-led co-development begins at COP31 | Planned endorsement at COP32

01

THERMAL SAFETY

Can people remain safe during extreme heat?

02

RESILIENT SYSTEMS

Can critical services continue to function?

03

CLIMATE-COMPATIBLE DELIVERY

Can we protect people while limiting emissions?

Building on the September 2026 Global Cooling Pledge Assembly in Singapore

A call to action

JOIN THE COUNTRY-LED PROCESS

01 BRING

National priorities and ASEAN experience

02 SHAPE

Solutions, indicators and investment priorities

03 DELIVER

Practical action through national and city plans

Third Annual Cooling Ministerial | 16 November 2026

THANK YOU

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