CONCEPT NOTE

Accelerating Climate Action through Sustainable Cooling: Digital Innovation, Partnerships and Implementation

Date 14 November 2026

Time 12:00–13:30 local time (GMT+3)

Venue Viet Nam Pavilion, COP31

Lead Organiser Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam, in cooperation with ETP/UNOPS, the UNEP Cool Coalition, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC).

1. Key Objectives

The side event entitled “Accelerating Climate Action through Sustainable Cooling: Digital Innovation, Partnerships and Implementation” will convene government representatives, international organizations, development partners, industry stakeholders, financial institutions and technical experts to exchange experiences and explore opportunities for advancing sustainable cooling as an integral part of climate action.

The event aims to

- Highlight global efforts and Viet Nam's progress in promoting sustainable cooling, including energy efficiency, climate-friendly refrigerants and refrigerant lifecycle management.
- Showcase innovative solutions, digital technologies and practical experiences in implementing sustainable cooling initiatives.
- Strengthen international partnerships and explore financing opportunities to accelerate the transition towards sustainable cooling in Viet Nam and the region.

2. Context and Background

Rising temperatures, urbanisation and economic growth are driving rapidly increasing demand for cooling across Viet Nam and the wider region. Sustainable cooling is therefore becoming increasingly important for climate mitigation, energy security, public health, food systems and resilience to extreme heat.

According to Viet Nam’s National Sustainable Cooling Plan (2025), the cooling sector accounted for an estimated 25.2% of national electricity consumption in 2022 and generated approximately 64.7 $MtCO_2e$ in greenhouse gas emissions. Under the baseline scenario, cooling-related emissions were projected to increase by 8.6% by 2025 and could reach approximately 91.7 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030 under business-as-usual conditions, with cooling demand expected to continue growing towards 2050.

Addressing these challenges requires an integrated approach that combines improved energy efficiency, the adoption of low-GWP refrigerants, effective refrigerant lifecycle

management, enhanced operation and maintenance practices, and broader access to sustainable cooling solutions.

These priorities are closely linked to Viet Nam's implementation of the Kigali Amendment, its NDC under the Paris Agreement, and its commitment to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. Viet Nam has progressively strengthened its sustainable cooling agenda through national policies, planning and technical cooperation, with contributions from government agencies, international organizations, development partners, industry and technical institutions.

The next challenge is to move from plans and commitments toward implementation at scale. This will require effective policy and institutional coordination, digital and technical innovation, viable financing and business models, stronger refrigerant lifecycle management, and sustained partnerships between government, industry, finance and international partners. The COP31 side event will provide a platform for Viet Nam and its partners to share experience and explore practical approaches for accelerating this transition.

3. Draft Run-of-Show

Moderator Representative of the Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

Time	Session	Speakers
11:45–12:00	Registration	
OPENING SESSION		
12:00–12:05	Welcome remarks	Leadership, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam (MAE)
12:05–12:10	Accelerating the Global Cooling Transition: Partnerships, Innovation and Investment	Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
12:10–12:20	Sustainable Cooling as a Climate Solution – Advancing Global Climate Ambition	UNEP Cool Coalition
PRESENTATIONS		
12:20–12:30	Viet Nam's Sustainable Cooling Transition: From Policy Commitments to Practical Implementation	Department of Climate Change (DCC), MAE
12:30–12:40	Digital Refrigerant Traceability: The RefNEXT Experience	Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC)

12:40–12:50	From Planning to Implementation: Delivering Sustainable Cooling Solutions in Viet Nam and Lessons for Southeast Asia	Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP), UNOPS
12:50–13:00	Financing the Cooling Transition: From Energy Efficiency to Investable Solutions and Article 6	Energy and Environment Consultancy Joint Stock Company (VNEEC)
DISCUSSIONS AND CLOSING		
13:00–13:25	Open discussion with speakers and participants	All speakers
13:25–13:30	Closing remarks	Department of Climate Change, MAE

4. Event Focal Point

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