

Energy Efficiency as a Mean to Increase Energy Access in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract : Energy efficiency can contribute significantly towards increasing clean energy access to modern energy services. Many developing countries have largely focused on expanding energy access by increasing supply. This is due to the fact that the links between energy efficiency and clean energy access are often unnoticed. This oversight of energy efficiency is frequently a missed opportunity, as efficiency is often a very cost-effective energy resource. In combination with grid expansion and new clean energy generation, efficiency efforts can help to ensure that reliable power is provided to the maximum number of households at a lower cost than would be required to increase generation alone. Energy efficiency measures offer the promise of reducing energy use and saving money on electricity bills, as well as reducing negative environmental externalities associated with the production of electricity. This paper seeks to address economically efficient methods of reducing electricity usage through energy efficiency priorities and devising an action plan to integrate energy efficiency as a resource for meeting energy access goals and examines the barriers to energy efficiency in sub-Saharan African countries. The findings from this study reveal that an appropriate policy can promote the development of more energy-efficient buildings and products and strengthen incentives for consumers, businesses, and industrial customers to pursue cost-effective energy-efficiency measures and to make investments that will provide future energy-efficiency improvements.

Keywords : barriers, cost effective, clean energy, energy efficiency

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