

NGO Perspective on Energy Efficiency

(statement on behalf of NGOs by Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE, at CSD 14 thematic discussion 2/5 15-18.)

From the NGOs we would like to stress the large potentials of energy efficiency. In many fields, it is possible to increase energy efficiency by a factor of 4. It is possible to build houses, construct numerous electrical appliances as well vehicles that only use only 25% of the energy that is used today. This is the real potential of energy efficiency.

The costs associated with increasing energy efficiency can be very low when it is introduced when equipment is replaced. This means that for electrical appliances and vehicles with a fast turnover, it is possible to introduce energy efficiency quickly and with minimal costs. For houses that are seldom replaced, introduction takes longer; however many energy efficiency improvements are available and cost-effective.

How do we make the energy efficiency happen? We have already have heard many good examples from panellist and speakers. We should keep these good examples in mind.

From the NGOs we would like to stress the involvement of the consumers. Consumers are not experts in energy efficiency, and they should not be expected to be so. Consumers need clear and simple signals regarding the energy consumption of our purchases. As pointed out by previous speakers, informing and guiding consumers by labelling and standards are key.

It is essential that labelling and standards are introduced in complement with technological development. Regulation should require that labels are introduced with each new technology. There must not be a gap between the availability of new technologies and consumer information; labels must clearly indicate the energy consumption of each technology. Only then can the real potential of energy efficiency be harnessed.