

Press Release

Media conference

From Kyoto to Copenhagen



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Page 1/2

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International Energy Agency (IEA):

Energy waste in buildings can be cut by 75%

Buildings can deliver large cost-efficient CO₂ reductions, said IEA policy analyst, Jens Laustsen, at the “From Kyoto to Copenhagen” conference in Copenhagen.

The UN climate panel’s call for an 80% reduction of CO₂ emissions from the industrialised world is within reach for the most energy guzzling sector: Buildings which consume close to 40% of world energy. According to the IEA, the energy waste in buildings used for heating, cooling, ventilation and hot water can be cut by 75% globally.

Only two months ahead of the UN Climate Summit (COP15) in Copenhagen in December, IEA policy specialist Mr. Jens Laustsen, presented this message at a breakfast session hosted by the insulation producer the Rockwool Group on Oct. 10 at the Project Syndicate conference *From Kyoto to Copenhagen*. He says:

“Energy efficiency is the key solution to a low-carbon society. It can deliver 54% of the CO₂ reductions that the UN climate panel calls for. Another 23% can be obtained from renewable energy, and the remaining 23% from intensified use of nuclear power and carbon capture and storage.” Jens Laustsen continues:

“We already have the technology today to cut the horrendous waste of CO₂ and expensive energy in buildings. Many of the investments to save energy in buildings are not only cost-effective; they are even more profitable than many pension schemes that you and I so willingly invest in,” says Jens Laustsen.

All existing buildings need to be refurbished

For these improvements to take place it is crucial to renovate the old building stock to low-energy levels. New buildings should be made so energy efficient that a small solar panel on the roof or other means of sustainable energy can turn the building into a net zero energy home. Or even better, a plus energy home that supplies more energy to the grid than it requires.

World-wide Implementation Now

The IEA appeals for **World-wide Implementation Now (W.I.N.)**. The word win should be taken literally. Jens Laustsen says:

“Consumers win because they reduce their fuel costs and obtain increased indoor comfort. Business wins because energy efficiency creates millions of jobs. Governments win because energy efficiency makes climate policy goals easier to reach, it improves their security of

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Page 2/2

energy supply, it stimulates their economy and employment rates, and it improves public health. Many governments are facing a demand for enormous investments to be able to provide enough energy for its populations. Some of these investments can be saved cost-effectively in a sustainable manner if we waste less energy,” says Jens Laustsen.

More than 200 editors from media across the world attended the Project Syndicate conference to foster global debate on the climate topic.

Further information:

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