

Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties (MOP 37) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Side Event Concept Note

From Policy to Practice: Integrating Energy Efficiency and HFC Phase- Down into World Bank Sustainable Cooling Operations

Date: November 4, 2025, Time: 18:00-20:00 (UTC+3)

Venue: CR-10

Overview

Across the world, the demand for cooling is growing at an unprecedented pace. Rising temperatures, rapid urbanization, and population growth are driving increased air conditioning use, which now accounts for a significant share of peak electricity demand in many countries. The growing demand for cold chains in agriculture and fisheries, driven by the need to reduce food loss, increase commercial viability, and access to higher-value markets, would further exacerbate the problem. At the same time, the continued reliance on inefficient cooling technologies and high-global-warming-potential (GWP) refrigerants is accelerating greenhouse gas emissions, amplifying climate risks, and posing compliance challenges to the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol.

Against this backdrop, advancing sustainable cooling is not merely a technological transition—it is a strategic opportunity to integrate energy, food security, and socioeconomic development. This event will highlight the World Bank’s analytical and operational work on sustainable cooling, sharing insights from recent regional studies, project implementation experiences, and innovative financing mechanisms, including ways to leverage the Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF). Through these integrated perspectives, the session aims to explore pathways for scaling up sustainable cooling solutions.

The side event will present:

- The World Bank’s recent study in the MENA region, covering cooling demand, grid reliability, regulatory strength, technology availability, and other key factors. These baseline conditions form the foundation for recommendations on transitioning to sustainable cooling, which have been integrated into a general roadmap that can be used by targeted countries or any country aiming to adopt sustainable cooling practices.

- Highlights of the World Bank’s operations on sustainable cooling in fisheries sector, including implementation arrangements, achievements, and lessons learned.
- A review of financing options for sustainable cooling investments, with a specific focus on the Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF) for end-users.

Agenda

Moderator: Thanavat Junchaya, World Bank Montreal Protocol Coordination Team

Time	Session	Speaker
18:00-18:25	Dinner	All
18:25-18:30	Welcome Remarks	Jiang Ru Manager, Global Environment, World Bank
Presentation		
18:30-18:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Comprehensive Understanding of the “Space Cooling” Ecosystem in the MENA Region 	Ashok Sarkar Senior Energy Specialist, Program Leader-Infrastructure, World Bank
18:50-19:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Cooling in Fisheries: Insights and Achievements from the recent World Bank operation in Africa Region 	Charlotte De Fontaubert Senior Fisheries Specialist World Bank
19:10-19:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking Finance for Sustainable Cooling 	Feng Liu Senior Energy Specialist World Bank
19:30-19:50	Q&A	
19:50-19:55	Closing Remarks	Jiang Ru Manager, Global Environment, World Bank