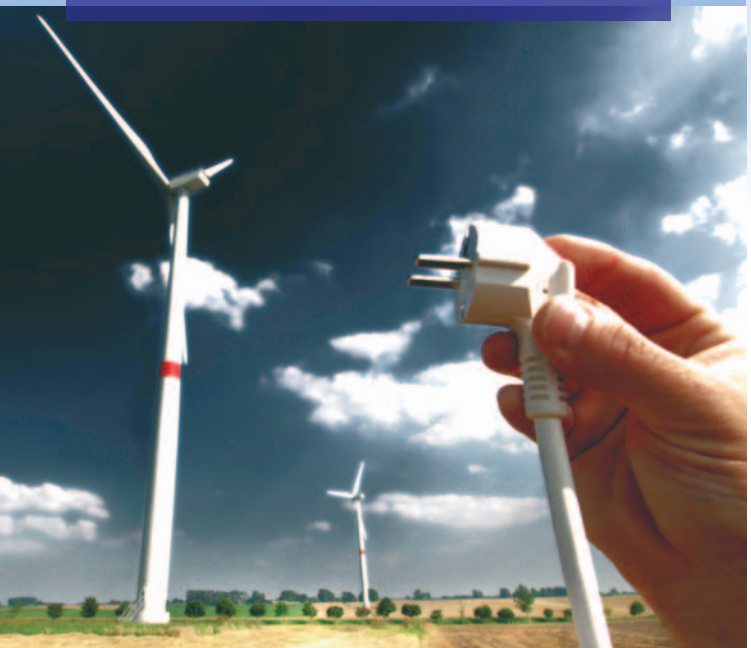
LATEST NEWS

New Communication

The European Commission adopted on 13th May 2008 a new Communication on «Addressing the challenge of energy efficiency through Information and Communication Technologies» - COM(2008) 241.

Public consultation

On 20th May 2008 a related public consultation on «Information and Communication Technologies enabling energy efficiency» has been launched.



FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACT

E-MAIL CONTACT

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WEBSITES

The Communication is available in 22 official languages *on EUROPA*: http://ec.europa.eu/ictforsg

Funding opportunities on CORDIS:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/sustainable-growth

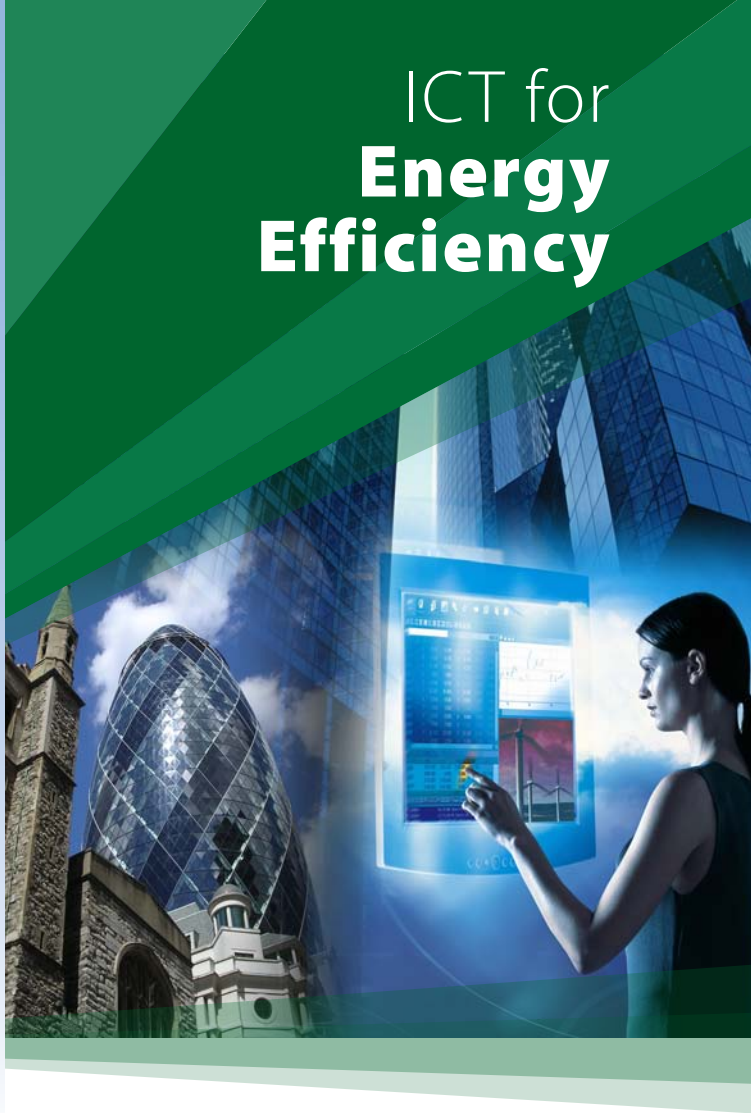
WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

European Commission
Directorate-General Information Society and Media
B-1049 Brussels
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/

KK-80-08-312-EN-D

European Commission
Information Society and Media

ICT for Energy Efficiency



Addressing the challenge of energy efficiency through Information and Communication Technologies

COM(2008) 241

European Commission
Information Society and Media

Addressing the challenge of energy efficiency through Information and Communication Technologies

The key role of ICTs

At the 2007 Spring European Council, the Heads of State and Government highlighted the development of a sustainable integrated European climate and energy policy as a top priority and adopted an energy and climate package to guide the EU towards a competitive and secure energy economy while promoting energy savings and climate-friendly energy sources. **Europe faces three main challenges in this field** — tackling climate change, guaranteeing secure, sustainable and competitive energy, and making the European economy a model for sustainable development in the 21st century.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have an important role to play in reducing the energy intensity and increasing the energy efficiency of the economy, in other words, **in reducing emissions and contributing to sustainable growth.** In order to achieve the ambitious targets set and meet the challenges ahead, Europe needs to ensure that ICT-enabled solutions are available and fully deployed.

This Communication aims to raise awareness of the current and potential impact of ICTs as an enabler for energy efficiency, stimulating an open debate among the relevant stakeholders in a number of selected areas. «Addressing the challenge of energy efficiency through ICTs» will start by bringing together stakeholders in the ICT and energy domains to create synergies. Business, government and civil society will then be called upon to enter a new form of collaboration and innovative leadership.

The Communication

This Communication focuses on two main areas:

- **ICT itself**, a small but very visible energy consumer, through RTD and take-up aimed at improving energy efficiency at the level of components, systems and applications and through adopting green-procurement and substitution technologies.

- **ICTs as an enabler to improve energy efficiency across the economy**, through enabling new business models and improved monitoring and finer control of all sorts of processes and activities. All sectors of the economy, now increasingly ICT-dependent, will benefit to a varying degree, although the initial focus will be on the power grid, on energy-smart homes and buildings and on smart lighting.

To inform and structure dialogue in the two areas, a **Consultation and Partnership Process** on ICTs for Energy Efficiency has been launched on 20th May. The objective of this horizontal activity will be to foster cooperation and understanding among all the actors involved in the energy and ICT domains, including regions, cities and authorities.

The issues

Reducing the carbon footprint of ICTs

The ICT industry is in a unique position to demonstrate leadership in reducing its footprint, through **structural change** and **innovation** as well as by leading the way in identifying and creating efficient solutions for other socio-economic sectors to follow.

ICTs as an enabler to improve energy efficiency across the economy

The enabling potential of ICTs to reduce energy consumption will make a major contribution to improving energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy. It is initially proposed to focus on the **power grid, energy-smart homes and buildings and smart lighting** (due to their relative importance and potential for improvement). Other sectors with considerable energy-saving potential are the manufacturing industry and transport (estimated, by 2020, at around 25% and 26% of their total primary energy consumption).

Increasing the visibility and improving the understanding of ICTs for energy efficiency

In order to increase the visibility and improve the understanding of the current and potential impact of ICTs as an enabler for energy efficiency, the various communities of stakeholders (industry, academia and research institutes, consumers, public authorities, etc) need to get involved and work together. To this end, cooperation needs to be promoted between all interested players at local, regional, national and European level.