

Press Release

“We have to change the way we eat and heat”: Sustainable heating and cooling to pave the way towards phasing-out fossil fuels

Brussels, Wednesday 16 September 2020

EPEE, representing the heating and cooling industry in Europe, applauds the revised greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 announced by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen today, as a major milestone towards carbon neutrality in 2050. With buildings representing 40% of total greenhouse gas emissions in Europe, heating and cooling have a major role to play in achieving this target.

“We have to change the way we eat and heat”, stated European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her State of the Union Speech today. At EPEE, we cannot agree more! Heating and cooling are crucial to achieve carbon neutrality and the good news is that technologies are readily available. At EPEE, we look forward to the systemic modernisation and support via #NextGenerationEU as announced by the European Commission this morning. It will be key for the broad deployment of these technologies – to achieve a sustainable cold chain for food and medicines, thermal comfort in our buildings and health and well-being for all”, said Andrea Voigt, Director General of EPEE.

Fossil fuels still represent around 80% of the final energy used for heating and cooling in Europe and contribute more than 70% to the EU’s total greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable heating and cooling can help to phase-out fossil fuels by reducing and decarbonising the energy used for heating via waste heat recovery from cooling, energy efficient electrification of heating and cooling and by providing flexibility to the grid for broad deployment of renewable energies.

“The Renovation Wave, the Energy System Integration Strategy and the review of climate and energy legislation such as the Renewable Energies Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive will provide major opportunities to pave the way towards sustainable heating and cooling. In parallel, it will be important to keep up ambition not only by increasing the greenhouse gas emission target, but also by revising the targets for renewable energies and energy efficiency accordingly”, Voigt concluded.

#CountOnCooling: More information about the contribution of sustainable cooling to achieving the EU’s energy and climate targets can be found at www.countoncooling.eu

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ABOUT EPEE:

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) represents the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of over 50 member companies, national and international associations from three continents (Europe, North America, Asia).

EPEE member companies realize a turnover of over 30 billion Euros, employ more than 200,000 people in Europe and also create indirect employment through a vast network of small and medium-sized enterprises such as contractors who install, service and maintain equipment.

EPEE member companies have manufacturing sites and research and development facilities across the EU, which innovate for the global market.

As an expert association, EPEE is supporting safe, environmentally and economically viable technologies with the objective of promoting a better understanding of the sector in the EU and contributing to the development of effective European policies.

As part of the activities EPEE and its members are undertaking to raise awareness on sustainable cooling, EPEE has launched a broader [#CountOnCooling campaign](#). The [EPEE White Paper](#) "Count on Cooling: A five-step approach to deliver sustainable cooling" examines the crucial role of cooling in the 21st century.

For more information please see our websites www.epeeglobal.org and www.countoncooling.eu