Energy efficiency labels and standards in the developing world: the CLASP Technical Assistance Program

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1. SYNOPSIS

CLASP promotes efficiency standards and labels in developing countries through in-country technical assistance programs, technical and policy support tools and, research and information exchange.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On average, energy use in buildings is growing by 0.8% per year worldwide (Price 1998). This predicted growth in energy use is likely to contribute to overstress in many already stressed economies and environments around the world. Reducing energy inefficiency in this sector deserves to be as high a priority in any nation's portfolio of energy policies as are parallel policies in the industrial and transportation sectors. Energy-efficiency labels and standards for appliances, equipment, and lighting as specific policies, offer a significant opportunity to improve energy efficiency. As Figure 1 below shows, standards shift the distribution of energy-efficient models of products sold in the market upward by eliminating the least efficient models and establishing a baseline for programs that provide incentives for "beating the standard". Labels shift the distribution of energy-efficient models upward by providing information to consumers to make rational decisions and stimulating manufacturers to design products that achieve higher ratings than the minimum standard.

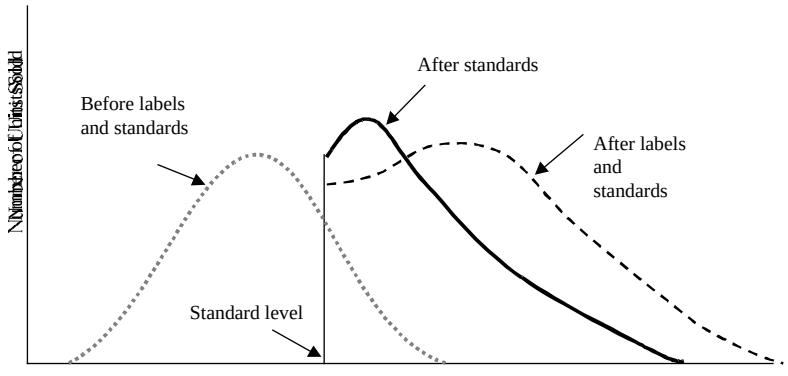

Figure 1

In recognition of this great opportunity worldwide and in response to developing country policymakers' need for information and technical support on standards development, the Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP) was founded in 1999. CLASP, a joint partnership of the Alliance to Save Energy, the International Institute for Energy Conservation and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, has as its mission to promote efficiency standards and labels in developing and transitional countries through partnerships with in-country agencies, stakeholders and relevant institutions.

CLASP is achieving this currently through a combination of:

- customised country technical assistance programs developed in conjunction with in-country host agencies and institutions,
- the development and dissemination of technical and policy support tools, and
- ongoing research and information exchange.

In working with individual countries, the CLASP approach is to first assess the current status of standards and labelling efforts with respect to the various steps in the process of developing and implementing standards and labels, and then design an appropriate assistance program with a country partner(s). When designing these programs, typical technical services might include: needs assessment; policy, analytical, logistical, and advocacy support; training, education, and compliance programs for key stakeholders; design services and equipment for the establishment of equipment testing facilities as well as the specification of equipment testing procedures, labels, and efficiency standards. Currently CLASP is working with seven countries and expects to add three more in the next year.

The development and dissemination of key technical and policy support tools is an important complement to the individual country assistance programs. Firstly, CLASP has authored and published, *Energy Efficiency Labels and Standards: A Guidebook for Appliances, Equipment and Lighting* (Wiel et al. 2001). This Guidebook addresses in detail each of the process steps noted above, uses actual country cases to illustrate various successes of and issues raised by standards and labelling policies, and provides extensive references to current literature in the field. This *Guidebook* is readily available and downloadable form another of CLASP's support tools: the CLASP website [www.CLASPonline.org]. In addition to housing the *Guidebook*, the website is the host for general information on standards and labelling efforts worldwide, CLASP activities, and specially designed "tools" that policymakers can use in preparing for, developing and implementing standards an labels policies. Specifically these tools include: sample presentations that can be used in advocacy efforts; sample labels and standards; a matrix reporting the status of standards and labels world wide; and an interactive policy analysis tool that calculates a country's cost/benefits of implementing such a policy. These tools are readily available free of charge.

Finally, CLASP is creating a network of standards and labelling experts worldwide. Information exchange among experts, particularly those who share regional similarities, is a critical element in the CLASP approach. To date, CLASP has held two regional workshops on the topic of standards and labels (Latin America and Asia) and has participated in several others. CLASP has adopted and is proceeding with this effective approach to promoting energy efficiency standards and labels worldwide, where global support tools and information exchange complement customised in-country assistance programs.

3. REFERENCES:

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