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# **Best practices for greater energy- efficiency**

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## The importance of energy conservation and efficiency

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- The cheapest ways to increase the lifetime of our non-renewable energy sources and reduce the impact of their use.
- More than 20% of what we already consume could be saved without reducing the services we get.



## About energy efficiency (1)

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- Energy efficiency is about technology but it is also about how technology fits in an organizational, social and cultural context.
- Energy efficiency is not about the lowest purchase price. It is about the life cycle cost.



## About energy efficiency (2)

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- Saving energy and being more energy efficient without compromising our lifestyle is simple.
- But energy efficiency is not, most of the times, our priority.
  - Our priorities are comfort, safety, production, sales, status.



## About energy efficiency (3)

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- To be more energy efficient we need to invest money
  - But we invest in those other higher priorities, even though they may not be as economically attractive as energy efficiency.
- Our problem is how we make it important for individuals and the market.



## Best practices (1)

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- To reach higher levels of energy efficiency, many individuals, companies and governments have put into place many different actions.
  - In their very particular technological, economic and institutional context
- Those that have been successful can be considered best practice



## Best practices (2)

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- In general, when we use energy, energy efficiency is the best practice.



## Best practices (3)

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- Best practices have to do with
  - information,
  - technology,
  - organization,
  - trained professionals,
  - intelligent financing,
  - adequate policies and
  - good decision making.
- Best practice depends on context and resources



## Best practices: key elements at different levels

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- Individual: Information, technology and financing
- Institutional: Information, technology, financing and organization
- National: Information on the impacts of social investments in energy efficiency



## The dimensions of Best Practices (1)

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- Technology: The use of the best technology
  - but also the best use of simple technology.
- Projects. There are thousands of examples in installations in many places in the world.
  - Good design, the right materials, good financing and responsible operation have made them a success.
  - ***Human ingenuity can go a long way to reach unexpected levels of energy efficiency.***



## The dimensions of Best Practices (2)

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- Programs. Multiple actions that are organized and led institutionally.
  - **Information**. Make people aware of what we is being wasted and why.
  - **Training**. Human resources are always important.
  - **Financing**. Low rates and/or low transaction-cost loans are always useful.
  - **Incentives**: Rebates, tax deductions and low-interest loans have proven very helpful.
    - And a good social investment



## The dimensions of Best Practices (3)

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- Institutions. Institutions lead, facilitate, push processes.
  - Good institutions help reduce uncertainty and transaction costs at all levels.
- Laws and regulations. Actions mandated by the authorities and supported by law can be the best practice
  - But that depends on the individual national context.



## Conclusions

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- **Saving energy and being more energy efficient can be simple and can go a long way to fulfill economic and environmental goals.**
- **We just have to make it a priority.**