

Few ready for F-gas phase-out

According to a recent statement by the European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE), only 15 of 27 European governments are set to be on track for the July F-gas Regulation's requirements.

As of July, and under the European F-gas Regulation, only companies that have certified and trained technicians can purchase F-gases for refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump installations.

"This restriction is a critical component of measures introduced by the regulation to ensure reduced emissions of F-gases," the EPEE said in a release.

Earlier this year, the EPEE undertook a survey to assess how ready countries were for the July 2009 key phase-out stage.

Out of the 27 Member States questioned, only 20 wished to share this information. And of these, only eight will be on track with a certified scheme up and running as of July.

The F-gas Regulation, is the legal tool to help EU member states contain, prevent and thereby reduce emissions of high-global warming fluorinated greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol, such as HFCs. The legislation applies to refrigerants used in stationary refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment.

The regulation and the subsequently adopted implementation measures feature strict requirements for the containment of F-gases and the personnel handling them, such as detailed leak check procedures, labelling provisions and high standards for the training and certification of staff. ■

A 10-year plan for commercial refrigeration

During 2009 the Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) will be developing a 10-year strategic energy efficiency plan for the commercial refrigeration sector in Australia and New Zealand.

The department says the aim of this work is to enable governments and industry to agree on key policies, which are needed to stimulate greater energy efficiency improvements and uptake in the market.

"Although steps have already been taken to regulate the energy efficiency of some products, we are aware that much more can be achieved," says Shane Holt, director of equipment energy efficiency for DEWHA.

"For example, there are substantial opportunities to reduce energy consumption through the use of new technologies in many fields. The strategic plan will also look at the policies adopted by our major trading partners so that we can ensure that Australasian equipment keeps pace with the competition."

Holt says previous long-term plans for lighting and gas appliances, among others, have been effective because they successfully engaged with their stakeholder industries.

DEWHA has asked a group of consultants headed by Mark Ellis & Associates to consult with industry in order to produce a draft strategic plan and three-year workplan by mid-2009. These will be distributed for comment leading up to a stakeholder forum in the second half of 2009.

Final plans will be published by the end of the year. ■

At the coalface



Sydney-based Eloise Aschberger works for Lend Lease Corporation's global head of strategy and mergers and acquisitions.

Specialty

I don't actually have a specific job title currently – I work for the global head of strategy and M&A on various projects in the organisation. "Project manager" would best fit probably. I previously worked in sustainable development for Lend Lease's construction and investment management businesses but have had the opportunity to work on corporate strategy and implementation for the past 11 months.

My passion is driving change – whether that is through more sustainable practices and buildings or operating the business more efficiently.

Challenges?

Getting people to recognise that change is not a bad thing – "short term pain – long term gain" as they say.

Professional development

Earlier in my career I was big on networking and industry seminars. Lately I have been more focused on tertiary education to round out my skills, completing a Graduate Certificate in Change Management and currently undertaking an MBA (Executive) at the Australian Graduate School of Management.

Inspiring words

Vision. While I am a true believer that all projects and organisations need constructive conflict to stretch outcomes to higher levels of excellence, it is so important that everyone is working towards a clearly communicated common vision.

What are you reading?

Peter Costello's memoirs – but that is an anomaly. You would usually find me reading a murder crime novel or chick literature.

Future plans

Short term – strategy implementation. Long term – definitely back in sustainability in property. There is still plenty of work to be done on existing buildings, educating investors and pushing the envelope for communities and mixed-use developments. ■