Using ICT to Advance Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

The Digital Energy & Sustainability Solutions Campaign (DESSC) brings together information and communications technology (ICT) companies and associations, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders who recognize the enabling role that ICT plays in improving our environment and driving long-term economic growth. DESSC, launched in 2008, is hosted by the Information Technology Industry Council.

Mission
DESSC supports policies that drive sustainable development/growth by advancing intelligent transportation systems, building energy management systems, smart logistics, smart grid, and other ICT-enabled solutions.

Policy Priorities
DESSC believes that governments should encourage ICT-enabled energy and water efficiency, clean-energy innovation, and sustainable development. While policies will vary depending on national circumstances and cultures, key recommendations include:

- Establish a national strategy or roadmap to unleash the power of ICT to enable efficient use of energy, water, and other critical resources;
- Lead by example to demonstrate the benefits of intelligent technologies and best practices;
- Foster the development of markets for innovative ICT solutions through the use of smart government procurement and by providing incentives for private sector adoption;
- Expand the availability of broadband throughout society to encourage efficiencies and innovations through intelligent connected devices;
- Increase funding for research and development in ICT-enabled resource efficiency and clean-energy innovation;
- Improve electricity utility regulation by permitting utilities to earn money from energy efficiency, not just from the sale of electricity;
- Create agreed-upon protocols/approaches for measuring the energy-efficiency and climate impacts of ICT in other economic sectors; and,
- Empower consumers to be more energy efficient by providing them access to their energy usage data and enabling the deployment of innovative tools.

2012 Activities
As ICT-enabled innovations will be essential to achieving governments’ goals for future sustainable growth, DESSC has been and will remain active in the Rio+20 process, and actively supports the U.N. Secretary General’s Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. We also have several ongoing projects. We will be highlighting case studies of U.S. Federal agencies employing ICT to perform in a leaner, more efficient and sustainable manner. We have begun to focus on ICT in water resource management by working with the Chesapeake Conservancy on the use of remote sensing for wetlands and forestlands management.

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