RECPnet
The Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production
About RECPnet

The Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECPnet) brings together RECP service providers on a global and regional level to catalyse the effective and widespread application of RECP in developing and transition economies. It does so by offering specialized, high-quality technical and advisory services to industries, creating synergies between its members and improving their capacities.

RECP SERVICES HELP:

Increase productivity

Reduce emissions and the use of natural resources

Improve the well-being of workers and communities

RESOURCE EFFICIENT AND CLEANER PRODUCTION

Resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP) entails the continuous application of preventive environmental strategies to processes, products and services in order to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. RECP addresses three sustainability dimensions individually and synergistically:

PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY

Improve productive use of natural resources

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Minimize the impact on nature

SOCIAL ENHANCEMENT

Support communities and reduce risks
20 Years of Global RECP Delivery:

Since the mid-1990s, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have collaborated to foster the global uptake of resource efficient and cleaner production. Under the joint flagship Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production programme, UNIDO and UNEP have responded to countries’ growing demand for help with the delivery of RECP services to industries by assisting organizations — especially small and medium-sized enterprises, governments, civil society, research institutions and related stakeholders — in over 60 developing and transition economies. Together with partner governments and an initial core of RECP service providers, UNIDO and UNEP established RECPnet in 2010. Since then, the global network has grown from 41 founding members to over 70 members and has sharpened its focus and operations to better meet industries’ increasing demands.

The primary objective of the Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production is to contribute to the effective and efficient development, application, adaptation, scaling up and mainstreaming of RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and technologies in developing and transition economies, both at the regional and global level. RECPnet also aims to facilitate inter-regional and South-South cooperation in regards to RECP-relevant knowledge, experiences and technologies.

The network’s three-pronged strategy to promote RECP globally consists of:

- Capturing and spreading information on RECP best practices
- Improving the knowledge and skills base of its members
- Advocating the relevance, necessity and benefits of RECP for industries

This strategy is accomplished through:

- Innovation and knowledge-sharing
- Institutional capacity-building
- Awareness-raising and advocacy
- Quality assurance and branding
Membership

Who can become a member?

RECPnet members are organizations that, as a core activity, offer resource efficient and cleaner production services to industries and businesses in developing and transition economies.

Members are typically recognized by governments and industries as being among the most advanced providers of RECP services in their country and/or region.

As of September 2015, RECPnet has 71 members from around the globe.

What is their motive and role?

In joining RECPnet, these organizations commit to cooperate for more than just economic motives. In the spirit of international partnership, knowledge transfer and professional excellence, the network’s members play a catalytic role in driving forward innovation and collaboration in RECP.

What are potential forms of membership?

Membership in the network can take one of three forms, namely Regular, Associate or Observer. Each type of membership has its own eligibility criteria, entitlements, fee structure and obligations.

What are the benefits of membership?

By joining RECPnet, members can benefit from enhanced capacity development, increased access to information on RECP best practices and case studies, and project assistance through integration with global development programmes and frameworks.

How are members evaluated?

All members of RECPnet are evaluated every three years to ensure their ongoing eligibility for membership and their compliance with RECPnet code of conduct.
RECPnet Regional Chapters

- Africa
- Arab Region
- Asia and the Pacific
- Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
71 members

- Regular
- Associate
- Observers
Organization

- RECPnet consists of an Executive Committee, Regional Chapters, a Members’ Assembly and is supported by a Secretariat.

- The Members’ Assembly is the highest decision-making body of RECPnet and determines organizational aspects and the strategic direction of the network. While the Members’ Assembly consists of all members of RECPnet, only Regular Members and Associate members have the ability to vote.

- The RECPnet Secretariat supports the day-to-day activities of the network and facilitates the work of the Members’ Assembly and the Executive Committee. At present, the Secretariat function is fulfilled by UNIDO and UNEP.

- The Executive Committee — which consists of five Regional Executives, each representing one Regional Chapter — guides and administers the network under the authority of the Members’ Assembly, in line with RECPnet Charter and in conformity with the mandates and procedures of the network’s Patron Agencies, namely the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

- The network’s Regional Chapters represent each of the five regions served. Regional Chapters facilitate networking and knowledge-sharing, both of which start at the local level.
The Nairobi Declaration of RECPnet

At the inaugural Members’ Assembly of RECPnet held on 19 October 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya, 32 members and 10 affiliated organizations endorsed the Nairobi Declaration of the Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production in Developing and Transition Countries. The declaration set out to mainstream and scale up the application of RECP concepts, methods, policies and techniques nationally and globally in developing and transition countries, based on national and regional socio-economic, environmental and industrial circumstances and priorities.

Moving towards the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be attained by the year 2030, provide an overarching policy goal for RECPnet members to work towards. In order to remain a valuable partner for countries seeking to reach their targets under the SDGs, RECPnet is committed to increasing the global impact of its services.

This is already being achieved through a greater tie-in with existing and emerging policy frameworks, such as the United Nations Environment Programme 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production, the SWITCH programme on sustainable consumption and production funded by the European Union, and multiple regional and national RECP-relevant initiatives. In addition, RECPnet is constantly aiming to engage in new partnerships to jointly advocate RECP and improve the value of services offered to industries.
“The Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production consists of leading institutions from over 60 countries all around the world, devoted to promote, transfer and provide services related to RECP to a wide variety of industrial sectors. In addition to providing services to enterprises and sectors, RECPnet is pursuing a strategy to promote sustainable development and competitiveness on a global level. This is achieved by collecting and transferring RECP-specific knowledge and best practices, as well as developing and implementing innovative strategies for fostering a circular economy.”

-- Cesar Barahona, President, RECPnet

“With its emphasis on small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing and transition economies, RECPnet plays a unique role in the global advancement of resource efficient and cleaner production. From enterprise-level assessments to national policy development, each member of RECPnet actively contributes to a model of industrial production that is both economically profitable and environmentally and socially sustainable. By helping develop new and innovative approaches to resource management, as well as enabling effective South-South cooperation, RECPnet facilitates the development of new industries delivering environmental goods and services. The network has thereby become a key factor in transforming the vision of globally inclusive and sustainable industrial development into reality.”

-- Stephan Sicars, Director, Environment Branch, UNIDO

“RECPnet has been our instrumental partner in delivering the programme on Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production in line with the priorities defined by countries at the global, national and regional levels. Its role as a service provider and intermediary has helped to cement and spread the messages and results of our work, making RECPnet and its members effective agents of change and scaling up the long-term impact of UNEP’s work in greening value chains. This will be even more fundamental in the 2030 agenda for global action, which gives increasing prominence to the contribution of industries and businesses to achieving sustainable development through an effective, transformative change.”

-- Arab Hoballah, Chief, Sustainable Lifestyles, Cities and Industry ‘Delivering SCP’ Branch, UNEP
Interested in joining?

Contact the RECPnet Secretariat at recpnet@unido.org, or visit the RECPnet website at www.recpnet.org

Connecting for sustainable industry!