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EELA ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN AFRICA

Accelerating Industrial Energy Efficiency in Zimbabwe

Key Findings and Strategic Opportunities from the EELA Zimbabwe Country Window

August 2026

EVIDENCE | MARKETS | POLICY | INVESTMENT

01 UNDERSTAND industrial energy use > **02 ENABLE** policy and institutions > **03 TRANSFORM** motors and cooling > **04 SCALE** finance and delivery

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WHY INDUSTRIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY MATTERS NOW

Zimbabwe has the policy ambition and industrial demand to act. The binding constraint is implementation: data, delivery capacity, finance and enforceable market rules.

26%
of national final energy consumption came from industry in 2023

~60%
of recent national electricity use was attributed to mining and industry

47%
of industrial final energy was coal in the 2023 national energy mix

0/10
audited enterprises reported a formal energy management system

FOUR MESSAGES FOR DECISION-MAKERS

01 - COMPETITIVENESS

Efficiency is an operating strategy. It lowers energy cost, reduces exposure to power-quality disruptions and improves asset reliability.

02 - SYSTEMS, NOT SINGLE ASSETS

The largest opportunities sit in connected systems: boilers and steam, motors and drives, compressed air, furnaces, cooling and controls.

03 - POLICY TO DELIVERY

Zimbabwe has a broad policy base. Progress now depends on implementing rules, clear mandates, credible data, compliance infrastructure and capable service markets.

04 - AUDITS TO INVESTMENT

Diagnostics must lead to costed measures, project preparation, finance matching, implementation and verified savings - not remain stand-alone reports.

BOTTOM LINE **The next phase should make industrial energy efficiency investable, enforceable and measurable - while framing it around reliability, productivity and resilience.**

WHAT THE EVIDENCE MEANS

Zimbabwe's industrial energy challenge is already large enough to affect national power planning, enterprise competitiveness and climate outcomes. Industry represented 26% of final energy consumption in 2023, while mining and industry absorbed about 60.1% of electricity distributed during the recent period reviewed. Improvements in a relatively limited group of energy-intensive enterprises can therefore create wider system benefits.

Yet the facility evidence shows that technical opportunity is only part of the issue. Audited firms commonly had someone responsible for energy, but none operated a formal energy management system and equipment-level data were weak. The priority is to combine efficiency measures with

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implementation infrastructure: skilled practitioners, trusted data, project preparation, finance and compliance.

WHERE ARE THE HIGHEST-VALUE STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES?

A sequenced portfolio can deliver immediate operational gains while building the institutions, markets and finance needed for scale.

A SIX-PART OPPORTUNITY PORTFOLIO

1 - MEASURE
Sub-metering, baselines, detailed audits, performance indicators and a governed industrial energy database.

2 - OPTIMISE
Controls, maintenance, leak repair, insulation, load management, set-points and operator routines.

3 - MODERNISE
Efficient motors and drives, boilers, furnaces, compressed air, refrigeration and heat recovery.

4 - MANAGE
Energy teams, skills, audit quality, ISO 50001-aligned systems and continuous improvement.

5 - TRANSFORM MARKETS
Mandatory MEPS, product registries, border checks, testing pathways, labels and quality-assured service.

6 - FINANCE AND SCALE
Project preparation, aggregation, blended finance, guarantees, supplier networks and verified savings.

THE INVESTMENT LOGIC

EFFICIENCY FIRST
Reduce demand
low-cost operations and system optimisation

THEN
Modernise assets
high-efficiency equipment and controls

THEN
Add clean supply
renewable electricity and heat where feasible

ALWAYS
Verify performance
MRV, database updates and reinvestment

TWO-SPEED IMPLEMENTATION **Air-conditioner regulation can advance quickly from a harmonised voluntary standard. Industrial motors require a phased IEC-based MEPS architecture alongside service-sector upgrading.**

HOW TO USE THE PORTFOLIO

The six opportunities are mutually reinforcing. Measurement establishes baselines; operational optimisation creates early savings and confidence; modernisation tackles ageing assets;

management systems make savings durable; MEPS shift the market; and finance enables scale. Pursuing only one component risks weak outcomes, such as audits without finance or standards without testing.

Sequencing should begin with no-regret actions and implementation readiness. Larger users can generate site-specific investment projects, while SMEs will need simplified audits, standard technology packages, aggregation, supplier support and guarantees. This two-track approach expands participation without diluting technical quality.

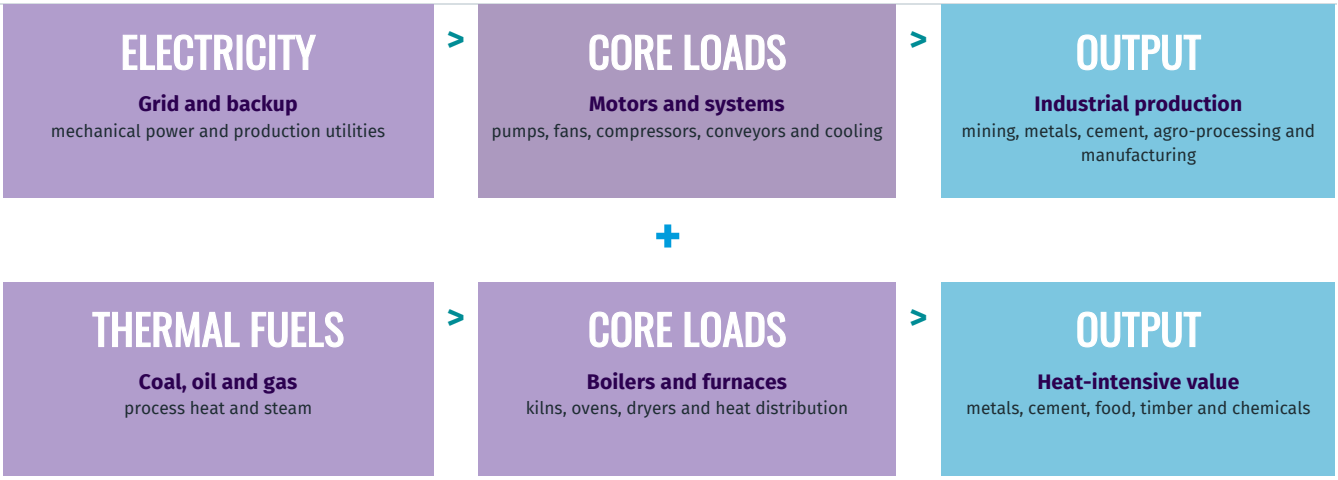
WHAT DOES ZIMBABWE'S INDUSTRIAL ENERGY SYSTEM LOOK LIKE?

Industrial production depends on both electricity and process heat. That dual dependence creates two efficiency agendas - motor-driven electricity systems and thermal systems dominated by coal.

INDUSTRIAL FINAL ENERGY BY SOURCE, 2023

National industrial final energy mix reported in the SLR analytical study.

ENERGY FLOW INTO PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY



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THE THREE PRESSURES SHAPING DECISIONS

COST	QUALITY	CARBON
Energy is a material operating expense for large users.	Voltage dips, spikes and interruptions disrupt production.	Coal, diesel and a carbon-intensive grid raise direct and indirect emissions.

STRATEGIC INTERPRETATION

The energy mix makes an electricity-only programme inadequate. Coal and oil products together supplied 72% of industrial final energy in 2023, so process heat is central to both costs and emissions. At the same time, electricity powers mechanical production and utility systems across almost every subsector. A national strategy therefore needs parallel workstreams for motor-driven systems and thermal efficiency, joined by energy management and data.

The reliability lens is equally important. A coal-concentrated power system, variable hydropower and imported-fuel exposure transmit supply and price risks to industry. Efficiency can reduce demand and vulnerability, particularly when combined with power-quality correction, load management and correctly sized embedded renewable energy.

Energy demand is concentrated in a limited number of subsectors, but the same cross-cutting systems recur across them. This creates a strong case for system-wide programmes combined with targeted subsector packages.

INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEM: FROM ENABLING CONDITIONS TO PERFORMANCE

RULES	>	INPUTS	>	ASSETS	>	ENABLERS
Policy and regulation targets, audits, MEPS, tariffs and grid rules		**Energy infrastructure** grid, fuels, water and logistics		**Plants and equipment** processes, utilities, controls and maintenance		**Finance and services** auditors, suppliers, banks, ESCOs and skills

PRIORITY SUBSECTORS AND DOMINANT ENERGY SYSTEMS

Subsector	Energy profile	Typical systems	Strategic opportunity
Mining and minerals	Electricity + diesel	Crushing, milling, pumping, ventilation, smelting	Motor systems, reliability, embedded renewables

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Subsector	Energy profile	Typical systems	Strategic opportunity
Metals and steel	Electricity + thermal	Furnaces, casting, motors, compressed air	Furnace controls, motors, heat recovery
Cement and materials	Coal + electricity	Kilns, grinding, fans, conveyors	Thermal efficiency, drives, alternative heat
Agro-processing	Electricity + thermal	Boilers, refrigeration, motors, drying	Steam, cooling, motors, solar/biomass heat
Chemicals and manufacturing	Electricity + process heat	Pumps, HVAC, compressors, controlled heat	Controls, equipment upgrades, EnMS

RELIABILITY IS PART OF THE EFFICIENCY PROPOSITION

10/10
audited enterprises reported production losses from outages

7/10
reported frequent voltage dips or sags

8/10
had diesel backup generation

DESIGN IMPLICATION **Efficiency programmes should package energy savings with power quality, production continuity, demand management and renewable resilience.**

WHAT PRIORITISATION MEANS

Mining, metals, cement and large agro-processing are natural anchor sectors because energy costs are material and recurring systems offer replicable interventions. But the opportunity is not limited to heavy industry. Food processing, chemicals, timber, textiles and building products share motors, boilers, compressed air, cooling and controls, allowing common technical packages to reach a broader enterprise base.

Reliability findings reinforce the business case. All ten audited sites reported production losses from outages, seven reported frequent voltage dips or sags and eight had diesel backup. Programmes framed around production continuity and asset reliability are therefore likely to secure stronger management attention than those presented only as energy or emissions projects.

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WHAT DOES THE ENTERPRISE EVIDENCE REVEAL?

The survey and walkthrough audits provide a practical screening view of Zimbabwean industry. They identify recurring systems and barriers, but the purposive sample must not be read as nationally representative.

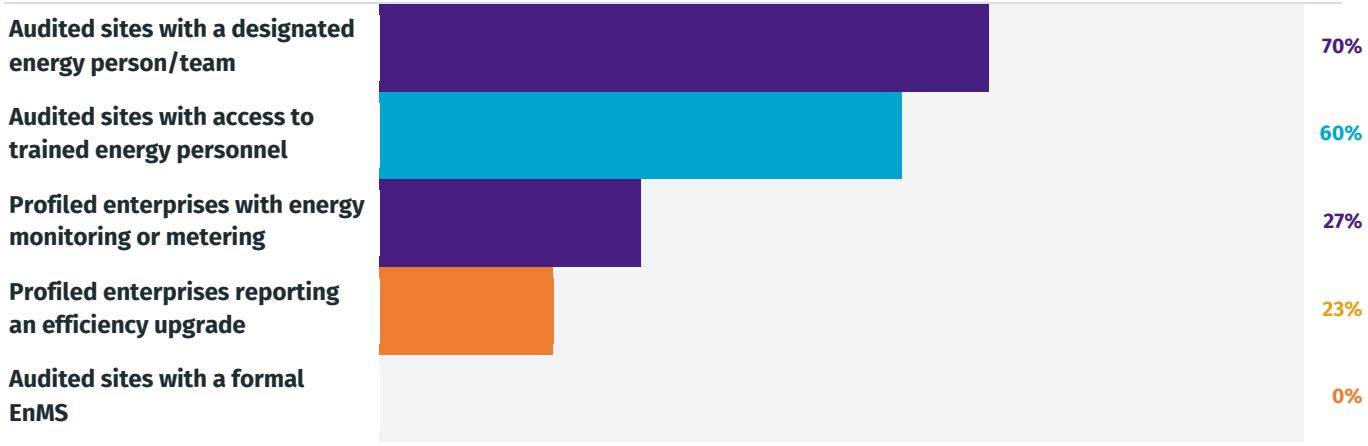
22
industrial enterprises in the cleaned survey dataset

10
Level 1 walkthrough energy audits

95%
of surveyed enterprises used grid electricity

50%
of surveyed enterprises reported more than 1,000 MWh/year

READINESS DASHBOARD



WHAT THE EVIDENCE SAYS

ENERGY COSTS ARE MATERIAL
Four audited enterprises reported annual electricity costs above USD 500,000.

ACTION IS OFTEN REACTIVE
Optimisation tends to sit inside maintenance and production rather than a formal efficiency strategy.

DATA LIMITS DECISIONS
Equipment-level performance, sub-metering and comparable benchmarks remain incomplete.

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY **The sample was participation-based, food-and-beverage heavy, and underrepresented some major users, notably mining. Findings were directional priorities for follow-up engineering and investment assessment.**

HOW TO READ THE EVIDENCE

The dataset is best used as a screening lens, not a national statistical survey. It identifies recurring patterns across participating firms - high grid dependence, material electricity bills, weak sub-metering and limited institutionalised energy management - while also showing where evidence remains thin. Strong food-and-beverage representation and limited mining coverage mean

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subsector comparisons require validation through additional audits and application of statistical principles for comparison if necessary.

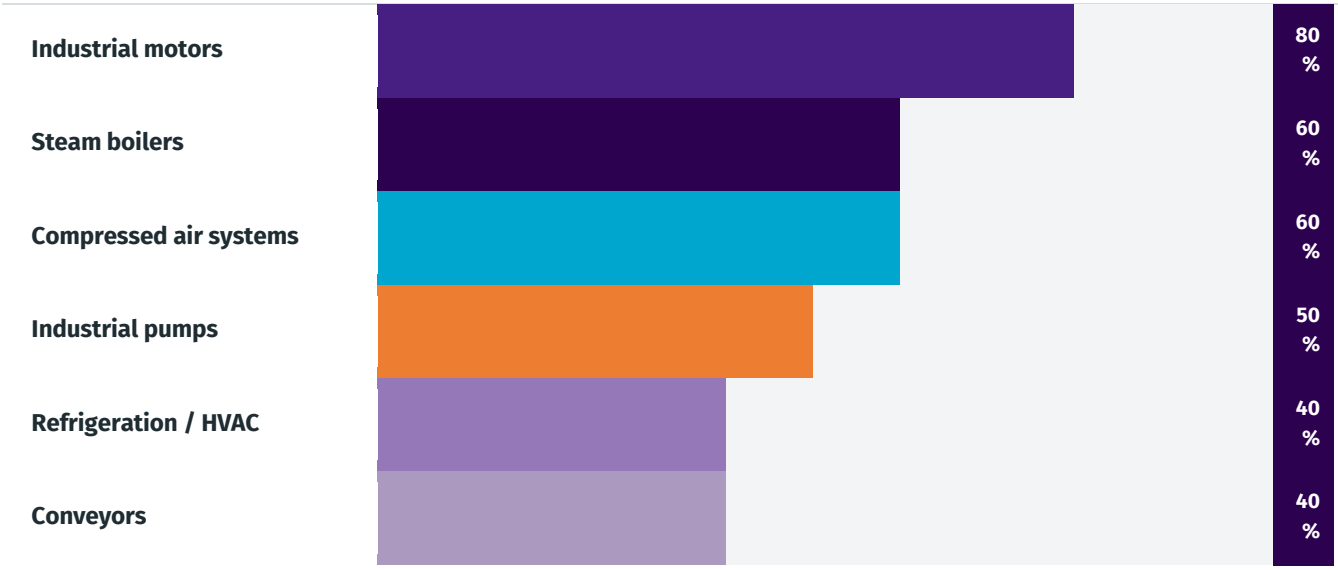
Still, the readiness signal is clear. The gap between designated energy responsibility (70% of audited sites) and formal EnMS adoption (0%) indicates that many firms have a human entry point but lack structured routines, baselines, indicators and investment processes. Capacity-building can therefore start from existing operational roles of the designated energy person/team.

WHERE DOES ENERGY GO INSIDE AUDITED FACILITIES?

Two systems dominate the screening-level energy picture: steam generation for process heat and motor-driven electricity use.

INDICATIVE SHARE OF REPORTED EQUIPMENT ENERGY USE

EQUIPMENT PRESENCE ACROSS AUDITED ENTERPRISES



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TWO PRACTICAL INTERVENTION STREAMS

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS	THERMAL SYSTEMS
Motors and drives	Boiler combustion optimisation
Pump and fan optimisation	Steam and condensate management
Compressed air leak management	Insulation and leak repair
Cooling and refrigeration controls	Furnace and kiln controls
Load management and power quality	Waste heat recovery

SEQUENCE **Start with operating controls, maintenance, metering and leakage. Use the evidence produced to size capital upgrades and clean-energy systems correctly.**

WHAT THESE SYSTEMS TELL US

The prominence of boilers and motors points to a two-track technical programme. Thermal interventions should begin with combustion control, steam and condensate management, insulation and heat recovery. Electrical interventions should focus on motors, drives, pumping, compressed air, cooling, controls and power quality. In both tracks, measurement is a prerequisite for confident investment decisions.

Equipment shares are indicative: missing process-level meters may understate pumps, refrigeration and HVAC even where those systems are operationally significant. Follow-up audits should combine temporary metering, operating profiles and production data, then express opportunities as costed measures with savings ranges, risks and implementation responsibilities.

WHICH SUBSECTORS AND MEASURES SHOULD BE PRIORITISED?

Priority depends on energy intensity, dominant equipment, asset age and the ability to convert technical findings into implementable projects.

SECTOR OPPORTUNITY HEAT MAP

Subsector	Profile	Dominant systems	Priority package	Potential
Food and beverages	Electricity + heat	Boilers, ovens, motors, cooling	Steam optimisation, insulation, heat recovery, efficient motors	**HIGH**

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Subsector	Profile	Dominant systems	Priority package	Potential
Iron, steel and metals	Mainly electricity	Furnaces, motors, boilers	Furnace controls, scheduling, motors, waste heat	**HIGH**
Timber and wood	Electricity + heat	Motors, refining, boilers	Motor systems, boiler optimisation, residues/renewable heat	**HIGH**
Chemicals and allied	Mainly electricity*	Pumps, compressors, HVAC, older utilities	Controls, cooling, pumps, utility replacement	**MED-HIGH**
Textiles and apparel	Electricity	Sewing and steam ironing	Controls, efficient drives, steam management	**MEDIUM**
Building products	Electricity	Motors, moulding, compressed air	Motors, compressed air, production scheduling	**MEDIUM**

OPPORTUNITY MATRIX: FROM IMMEDIATE SAVINGS TO STRATEGIC TRANSITION

QUICK WINS | low investment
Leak repair; insulation; set-points; switch-off routines; tariff and load management.

SYSTEM OPTIMISATION | low-medium
Sub-metering; detailed audits; EnMS; VSDs; pump, fan and compressed-air optimisation.

CAPITAL MODERNISATION | medium-high
Efficient boilers; furnaces; cooling; controls; heat recovery; production-line upgrades.

STRATEGIC TRANSITION | site-specific
Renewable electricity; solar thermal; sustainable biomass; process electrification; storage.

FROM OPPORTUNITY TO PIPELINE

The heat map is a prioritisation tool, not a substitute for engineering. Similar technologies perform differently across facilities because production schedules, load factors, maintenance quality, fuel costs and asset condition vary. Each priority package should move from screening to a detailed audit, investment-grade design and measurement plan before financing.

A balanced pipeline should mix quick wins with capital projects. Operational measures create early savings and build trust; system optimisation produces repeatable projects; asset replacement addresses deeper losses; and site-specific clean-energy measures reduce exposure to grid and fuel risks. Packaging these horizons together maintains momentum while larger investments mature.

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IS ZIMBABWE'S POLICY FOUNDATION READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

The architecture is broad and increasingly aligned. The remaining task is to turn policy commitments and voluntary standards into operational obligations, capable institutions and trusted compliance systems.

POLICY EVOLUTION

Milestone	Instrument	Implementation significance
2012	National Energy Policy	Establishes the national energy-policy foundation.
2017	Climate policy + lighting regulation	Links climate ambition with a mature MEPS-type lighting regime.
2019-2020	Renewable Energy Policy + LEDS	Expands renewable-energy and long-term low-emission direction.
2023	ODS/GHG equipment controls	Creates import-control links for refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment.
2024	SADC ZWS 110:2024	Provides a harmonised voluntary technical basis for room-air-conditioner MEPS.
2025	NEEP, Energy Compact and NDC 3.0	Consolidates audits, EnMS, MEPS, data, reliability and climate priorities.
NEXT	Energy Efficiency Act + regulations	Expected to formalise obligations, roles, reporting and enforcement.

IMPLEMENTATION MATURITY

ESTABLISHED	DEVELOPING	PARTIAL	FRAGMENTED	NASCENT
Policy ambition	**Legal operationalisation**	**MEPS coverage**	**Data and MRV**	**Finance and project prep**

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CENTRAL DIAGNOSIS **Zimbabwe's gap is not a lack of policy ambition. It is the need to align mandates, enforcement, data, skills, financing and private-sector delivery.**

THE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGE

The policy direction has remained broadly consistent since the 2012 National Energy Policy, but several enabling conditions - dedicated legislation, integrated data systems and enforcement capacity - have taken longer to mature. NEEP 2025 and the anticipated Energy Efficiency Act can close this gap by formalising audits, EnMS, MEPS, reporting and compliance. Their effectiveness will depend on readiness when obligations begin.

Sequencing matters. Requirements introduced before auditors, testing pathways, registries, finance and industry support are available could create nominal compliance rather than measurable savings. The near-term agenda should therefore pair rule-making with capacity development, data governance, market surveillance and practical assistance for enterprises.

WHO MUST WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE POLICY DELIVER?

Industrial energy efficiency is a delivery chain, not a single-agency mandate. Clear interfaces between policy, regulation, operations, industry, finance and data are essential.

INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERY MAP

Function	Core actors	What must be connected
SET DIRECTION	MoEPD; Ministry of Industry and Commerce; MECW	Energy policy and EE instruments; industrial competitiveness; climate and MRV alignment
REGULATE + VERIFY	ZERA; SAZ; EMA; ZIMRA/customs	Audits, MEPS, standards, environmental compliance, conformity and border controls
OPERATE SYSTEMS	ZESA/ZETDC; ZPC; REA; NOIC	Grid reliability, metering, connections, generation, productive energy access and fuels
MOBILISE INVESTMENT	MoFEDIP; ZIDA; banks/DFIs; ZICMA	Incentives, guarantees, blended finance, project facilitation and climate-finance pathways
ENGAGE INDUSTRY	CZI; IEUG; ZNCC; sector associations; suppliers	Enterprise outreach, data provision, pilots, procurement, technology and service delivery
MEASURE + LEARN	ZERA; ZimStat; MECW; MoEPD; CZI	Reporting, benchmarks, audit registry, emissions links, database and policy feedback

PROPOSED DATA-GOVERNANCE CHAIN

COLLECT > **VALIDATE** > **GOVERN** > **USE**

- **COLLECT** — **Enterprises + audits** — standard templates and consent
- **VALIDATE** — **ZERA / technical actors** — quality checks and common units
- **GOVERN** — **MoEPD oversight** — roles, access and update cycle
- **USE** — **CZI + public institutions** — benchmarks, targeting and finance

TRUST ARCHITECTURE **Raw identifiable data should remain restricted; anonymised datasets can support authorised analysis; only aggregated outputs should be public.**

GOVERNANCE IMPLICATION

No institution can deliver the agenda alone. MoEPD can lead policy, but standards, conformity assessment, customs screening, electricity-system operations, industrial policy, climate MRV and finance sit across different mandates. A formal coordination mechanism needs decision rights, workplans, data-sharing protocols and an escalation path - not only periodic consultation.

Data governance is the operational bridge. A tiered model can protect commercially sensitive facility information while allowing anonymised analysis and public aggregate reporting. In return for contributing data, firms should receive benchmarking, audit feedback and access to technical and financing support. This value exchange is essential for sustained participation.

WHAT CAN ZIMBABWE LEARN FROM PEER SADC COUNTRIES?

Regional experience points to a common lesson: effective outcomes depend on delivery systems that connect rules, verification, finance and industry support.

INDICATIVE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION MATURITY

Country	Policy	Institutions	Finance	MRV / standards	Delivery	Transferable lesson
South Africa	High	High	High	High	High	Link incentives to independently verified savings and a clear certification chain.
Zambia	Moderate	Mod-high	Moderate	Mod-high	Moderate	Combine EELA policy work with standards enforcement, industry engagement and a clean-tech platform.

Country	Policy	Institutions	Finance	MRV / standards	Delivery	Transferable lesson
Eswatini	**Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Low-mod**	**Moderate**	**Low-mod**	Use targeted audits, standards, awareness and capacity-building as scalable entry points.
Namibia	**Moderate**	**Mod-high**	**Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Mod-high**	Connect efficiency with reliability, renewable procurement and power-market reform.

ADAPT THE SYSTEM - DO NOT COPY ISOLATED INSTRUMENTS

VERIFY > **ENFORCE** > **SUPPORT** > **FINANCE**

Credible M&V
baselines, accredited competence and trusted savings

Clear compliance
roles, testing pathways, registries and surveillance

Industry platform
audit uptake, project packaging, suppliers and skills

Outcome-linked capital
project prep, concessional finance and guarantees

ZIMBABWE'S ADVANTAGE **The country can combine a strong policy foundation with regional standards and an EELA industry-facing delivery model - while tailoring requirements to large users and SMEs.**

REGIONAL LESSON FOR ZIMBABWE

Peer experience suggests that individual instruments deliver little unless they form a functioning chain. South Africa demonstrates the importance of verified savings and credible certification; Zambia shows how standards and policy can connect to industry engagement; Eswatini highlights targeted, scalable entry points; and Namibia links efficiency to reliability and power-market reform.

For Zimbabwe, the practical lesson is to adapt these functions to national capacity. A smaller, well-governed delivery system can outperform an ambitious framework that cannot be enforced. Early pilots should test the full chain - baseline, technical support, finance, implementation and verification - then use results to refine national rules and scale.

HOW CAN THE INDUSTRIAL MOTOR MARKET SHIFT TO HIGHER EFFICIENCY?

Motors are ubiquitous across productive sectors. The market opportunity is not domestic manufacturing in the near term, but a stronger import, procurement, repair, drive and testing ecosystem.

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MOTOR MARKET AND INTERVENTION POINTS

SUPPLY	>	BORDER	>	USE	>	LIFECYCLE
Regional and global OEMs products enter mainly through imports		**Importers + distributors** documentation, registry and conformity		**Industrial applications** mining, water, processing, pumps and fans		**Repair + rewinding** quality assurance protects lifetime efficiency

MARKET MATURITY

AVAILABLE	NOT OPERATIONAL	LIMITED	DEVELOPING	ACTIVE / INFORMAL
IEC standards basis	**Motor-specific MEPS**	**Import compliance**	**Testing pathway**	**Repair sector**

PHASED MOTOR-MEPS PATHWAY

Step	Action	Practical focus
1	Define scope	Begin with new imported three-phase general-purpose motors and clear exemptions.
2	Set technical rules	Use IEC efficiency classes and test methods; require nameplate and technical documentation.
3	Register and screen	Connect approved models and documentation to ZIMRA/CBCA, SAZ and ZERA processes.
4	Activate demand	Use lifecycle-cost procurement, public purchasing guidance, audits and VFD deployment.
5	Protect performance	Introduce repair/rewind quality standards, technician training and service accreditation.
6	Expand over time	Extend to drives, pumps, fans, compressors and motor-driven systems as capability grows.

NEAR-TERM LOCAL VALUE **Formal import and distribution, quality-assured rewinding, VFD supply, energy audits, technician skills and testing services offer more immediate value-chain potential than full motor manufacturing.**

WHY A MARKET-SYSTEMS APPROACH IS NEEDED

An efficient motor does not guarantee an efficient motor system. Poor sizing, throttled pumps and fans, fixed-speed operation, weak maintenance or low-quality rewinding can erase product-level gains. Motor policy must therefore combine minimum product performance with lifecycle-cost procurement, system audits, VFD use, power-factor correction and repair quality.

Because the market is import-dependent, the border is a practical compliance point - but documentation checks alone are insufficient. Approved-model registration, clear nameplates,

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recognised test evidence and risk-based market surveillance are needed downstream. In the near term, local economic value is most credible in distribution, commissioning, rewinding, auditing, drives, testing and technician services.

HOW CAN COOLING MOVE FROM VOLUNTARY STANDARDS TO MARKET TRANSFORMATION?

Air conditioners have a stronger technical starting point than motors: SADC ZWS 110:2024 provides a harmonised basis. The priority is mandatory implementation and real-world service quality.

TWO EFFICIENCY GAPS MUST BE CLOSED TOGETHER

PRODUCT EFFICIENCY

Mandatory MEPS
Approved-model registry
Energy label and running-cost information
Refrigerant disclosure
Border and market surveillance

IN-USE PERFORMANCE

Correct sizing and load calculation
Installation and commissioning quality
Refrigerant handling
Maintenance and clean coils
Qualified HVAC technicians

MANDATORY MEPS IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY

1 Adopt
national technical annex based on SADC ZWS 110:2024

>

2 Register
models, labels, efficiency metrics and refrigerants

>

3 Screen
customs and CBCA documentation checks

>

4 Verify
risk-based surveillance and recognised testing

PLUS

5 Certify services
installer competence, commissioning and refrigerant practice

>

6 Build demand
public procurement, lifecycle cost and finance

>

7 Use the data
monitor imports, compliance and revision needs

LOCAL VALUE-CHAIN OPPORTUNITY **Installation, servicing, refrigerant recovery, market surveillance, testing and possible longer-term assembly offer realistic employment and skills pathways - including deliberate entry points for women.**

WHY PRODUCT AND SERVICE REGULATION MUST MOVE TOGETHER

The SADC standard gives Zimbabwe a head start, but market transformation requires a national compliance system. Importers need predictable documentation rules; customs and CBCA need searchable model data; retailers and procurers need comparable efficiency information; and regulators need surveillance and sanction procedures. These functions should be designed as one workflow.

Real-world cooling performance is also shaped after sale. Oversizing, poor refrigerant charging, weak commissioning and neglected maintenance increase electricity use and can undermine refrigerant-transition objectives. Mandatory product MEPS should therefore be accompanied by technician certification, installation protocols and consumer information on lifecycle cost - not only purchase price.

WHAT SHOULD ZIMBABWE IMPLEMENT FIRST?

The immediate priority is a delivery system that turns evidence into bankable measures while operationalising policy and product-market rules.

SIX PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

#	Priority intervention	Indicative lead ecosystem	Window	Result
1	Operationalise legal and compliance architecture	MoEPD / ZERA / SAZ	0-2 years	Foundation
2	Institutionalise the energy database, audit registry and MRV	MoEPD / ZERA / CZI / ZimStat / MECW	0-2 years	Foundation
3	Launch enterprise quick wins and system-optimisation support	CZI / industry / energy-service providers	0-2 years	Savings
4	Create an audit-to-investment project-preparation facility	MoFEDIP / DFIs / banks / CZI	0-2 years	Investment
5	Build MEPS, testing, inspection and technician capability	ZERA / SAZ / ZIMRA / TVET partners	0-5 years	Market

#	Priority intervention	Indicative lead ecosystem	Window	Result
6	Pilot reliability-linked efficiency and renewable packages	ZETDC / ZERA / industry / financiers	2-5 years	**Scale**

FROM AUDITS TO INVESTMENT

1 EVIDENCE — **Audit + baseline** — energy, cost, carbon and operating context

> **2 PACKAGE** — **Project preparation** — scope, capex, savings, risks and procurement

> **3 FINANCE** — **Match and aggregate** — loans, guarantees, blended and supplier finance

> **4 VERIFY** — **Implement + measure** — commissioning, M&V, registry and feedback

FINANCING PRINCIPLE **Differentiate support: large energy users can develop facility projects; SMEs need simplified audits, standard technology packages, aggregation, supplier support and concessional or guarantee-backed finance.**

WHY THESE INTERVENTIONS COME FIRST

The six interventions address the binding gap identified across the reports: weak conversion of policy and technical findings into implementation. Legal readiness and data systems create the foundation; enterprise support generates savings; project preparation and finance turn measures into investments; MEPS capability reshapes equipment markets; and reliability-linked pilots demonstrate integrated solutions.

Financing should follow evidence. Standard project templates can translate audit findings into capital cost, savings, risks, procurement and M&V requirements. Larger enterprises may support stand-alone projects, while smaller firms will need aggregated technology packages and risk-sharing. This prevents finance from being offered before a credible pipeline exists.

HOW CAN ZIMBABWE MOVE FROM EVIDENCE TO SUSTAINED SCALE?

A phased roadmap can protect implementation quality: build readiness first, pilot operational systems second, and scale only when data, institutions and finance are working together.

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IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

SHORT TERM | 0-2 YEARS

- Operationalise the EE legal pathway
- Clarify institutional roles
- Agree database governance
- Standardise audits and reporting
- Build auditor, M&V and inspector capacity
- Develop motor and AC MEPS annexes
- Launch audit-to-investment support

MEDIUM TERM | 2-5 YEARS

- Roll out phased audit and EnMS requirements
- Enforce MEPS and market surveillance
- Prototype the industrial dashboard
- Develop subsector benchmarks
- Pilot financing and aggregation
- Deploy reliability-linked EE/RE packages
- Strengthen testing and service certification

LONG TERM | 5-10 YEARS

- Institutionalise reporting and registry updates
- Scale finance and industry support platforms
- Embed EE/RE in SEZ and investment processes
- Link verified savings to NDC and climate finance
- Expand MEPS coverage and revise with data
- Sustain regional harmonisation

UNIDO AND THE EELA LEGACY

DATA

A structured enterprise and audit evidence base to extend and govern.

POLICY

An implementation pathway and Policy Action Matrix.

MARKETS

Priority pathways for motors and air conditioners.

DELIVERY

A platform concept connecting industry, finance and technology.

UNIDO'S STRATEGIC ROLE **Convene governance, provide implementation-grade technical assistance, build skills and quality infrastructure, structure pilots and investment pipelines, and connect verified outcomes to regional learning and climate finance.**

EFFICIENCY FIRST. RELIABILITY TOGETHER. INVESTMENT AT SCALE.

WHAT SUCCESS SHOULD LOOK LIKE

Success is not the number of audits, standards or workshops completed. It is a repeatable national system in which enterprise data identify priorities, accredited practitioners prepare projects, financiers assess consistent documentation, suppliers deliver compliant equipment, and verified results update policy and benchmarks. Each roadmap phase should be judged against this delivery chain.

EACREEE Building a Sustainable Energy Future
ECREEE Towards Sustainable Energy
SACREEE SADC CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Swedish Energy Agency
Sweden Sverige

EELA's legacy is therefore an implementation asset: initial evidence, a policy action matrix, product-market pathways and an industry-facing platform concept. UNIDO can help national partners convert these components into operational systems, pilot investments and capacity that remain after programme closure.

Source note: *This publication synthesises only the six attached EELA Zimbabwe sources: SLR Inception Report (20 February 2026); SLR Policy Landscape Summary (4 June 2026); SLR Draft Analytical Report (16 June 2026); Espire Final Report and Draft 01 (10 May 2026); and Espire Annexure 1 (April 2026). Facility findings are screening-level and sample-based.*