Energy innovators to solve $2.8trn global “productivity puzzle”

Finalists announced in global energy productivity innovation challenge

Embargoed Until: 08.01hrs BST, 09.01hrs CEST, 00.01hrs PST, 13 October 2016 [HEPIC16, Paris]: Energy Unlocked – a hub for innovation in global energy systems – today announced a shortlist of 21 finalists for its Energy Productivity Innovation Challenge (EPIC) at the first IEA High-Level Conference on Energy Efficiency: Innovative action to accelerate progress in Paris today.

Energy Unlocked CEO and founder Molly Webb said that energy innovators and new market entrants would be essential to solving the world’s $2.8 trillion “productivity puzzle” and tackling climate change.

Energy Unlocked’s EPIC 2016 competition aims to discover and promote the new market entrants who can help homes, industry and big business use less energy, at lower cost and with a lower carbon footprint. Advances in predictive analytics, real-time optimization, edge computing, fintech and battery storage are creating new demand-side flexibility and compelling opportunities to modernize the way the world produces and consumes energy.

By fostering a global pool of smart energy innovators, Energy Unlocked, ClimateWorks and EPIC partners - including the Climate Group’s EP100 initiative, Global Alliance for Energy Productivity, and the Alliance to Save Energy - hope to mainstream the competitive corporate energy solutions needed to double energy productivity by 2030.

Brian Motherway, Head of Energy Efficiency, International Energy Agency (IEA) said: “Innovation will drive the sustainable energy transition, and new technologies and businesses that can unlock energy efficiency gains will thrive. It's great to see these new and exciting ideas emerging. We at the IEA see the importance of energy efficiency as a global issue, and will play our part to support governments and businesses in every part of the world.”

Molly Webb, CEO and Founder of Energy Unlocked said: “Our 21 EPIC finalists all show innovative ways to decouple productivity from energy and the steps big businesses can take to leap-frog to a low carbon economy.”

Over 80 companies entered the 2016 competition from Europe, Africa, South America, North America, Asia and Australia. Finalists for the five EPIC categories – homes, buildings, mobility, systems and finance - were selected by an international jury assessing their impact on productivity, global transferability and innovation.
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The ultimate winners of each category will be announced on 14 November at an event on the sidelines of the UN climate summit in Marrakech. All entries will inform a new report into energy productivity policy to be published by Energy Unlocked in 2017.

Dan Hamza-Goodacre, Director of Energy Efficiency for ClimateWorks Foundation, said: “With their innovative and transferable business models, EPIC finalists are paving the way to smarter, more efficient, more resilient energy systems, which will underpin nothing short of a revolution in how we produce and consume energy. These business opportunities will help cut the costs of energy provision, and empower consumers, whilst also cutting carbon pollution. All 80 pioneers who entered our competition are well worth checking out.”

A full list detailing the 80 international entries and finalists is available at epic.energyunlocked.org/explore/companies

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Notes to Editors:

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For more information and full list of EPIC 2016 Finalists please visit: epic.energyunlocked.org

About EPIC [Twitter: #EPIC16]

From these finalists, five category winners will be announced in November 2016 on the side-lines of the UN Climate Summit in Marrakech, ahead of a major report by Energy Unlocked into global energy productivity. Partners of the EPIC initiative include the Climate Group’s EP100 initiative, the Global Alliance for Energy Productivity, and the Alliance to Save Energy. Global media partners include: GreenBusiness Media and Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Please visit EPIC.energyunlocked.org for more information.

About Energy Unlocked (energyunlocked.org | @energyunlocked)
Energy Unlocked is a not-for-profit organisation working internationally to accelerate energy market transformation to meet global climate targets. By driving global innovation in smart energy and opening up markets to new entrants, Energy Unlocked aims to unlock latent value in today’s energy system to cut bills for customers and unleash a global wave of energy productivity.

About ClimateWorks Foundation (climateworks.org | @climateworks)
A non-governmental organization that works globally, ClimateWorks collaborates with funders, regional and research partners, and other climate leaders to strengthen philanthropy’s response to climate change. Climate change threatens ecosystems, societies, and economies. These challenges require innovative responses and insights. Using the power of collaboration, ClimateWorks mobilises philanthropy to solve the climate crisis and ensure a prosperous future.