



European  
Copper Institute  
Copper Alliance



# Promoting the accelerated replacement of old electric motors in the EU

JULY 2022



# AGENDA

1. The European Copper Institute
2. The relevance of motors in electricity consumption
3. Motors stay for longer than expected
4. Reasons why
5. Benefits of accelerated replacement

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# Copper in the EU

# The EU copper sector

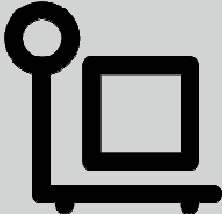
**50,000 people**



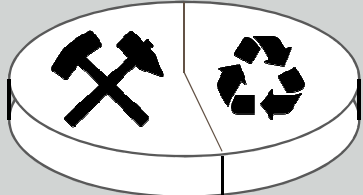
**€45 billion**



**3.5 million tons**

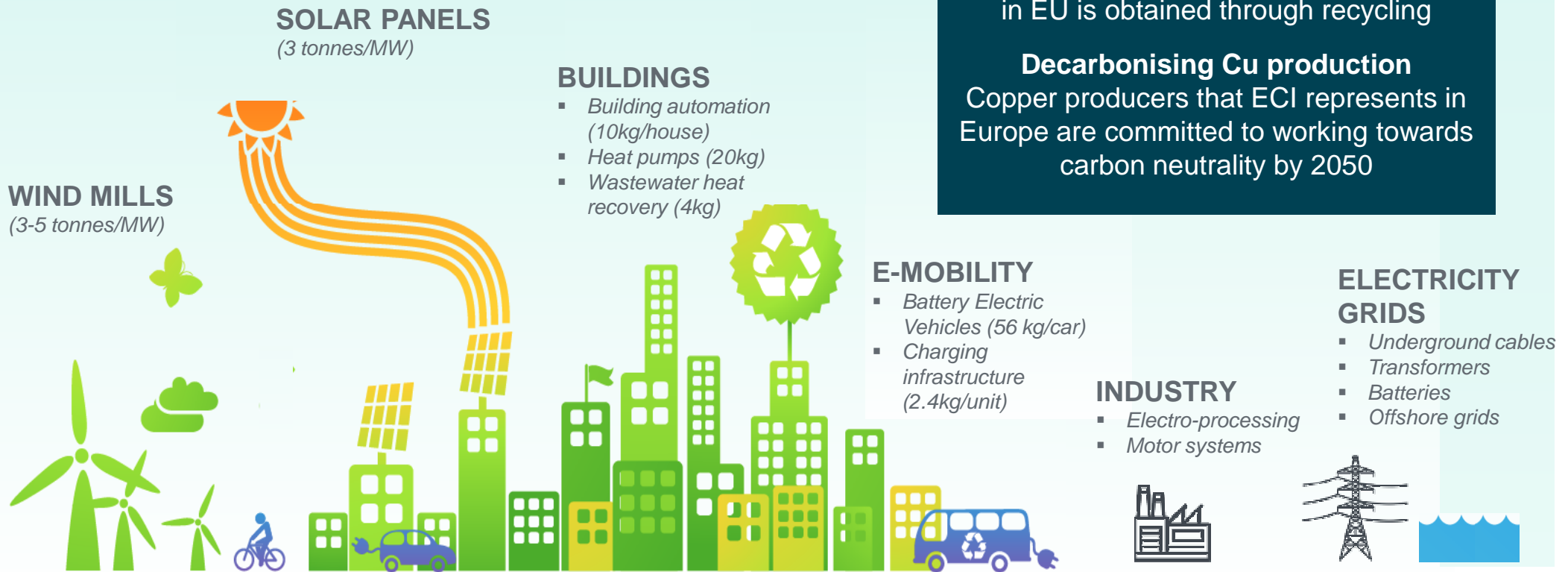


**55% primary  
45% secondary**



# Copper makes a significant net contribution to the clean energy transition

Amount of copper used in:



**A circular metal**  
Cu can be endlessly recycled without loss of properties. Almost 50% of copper produced in EU is obtained through recycling

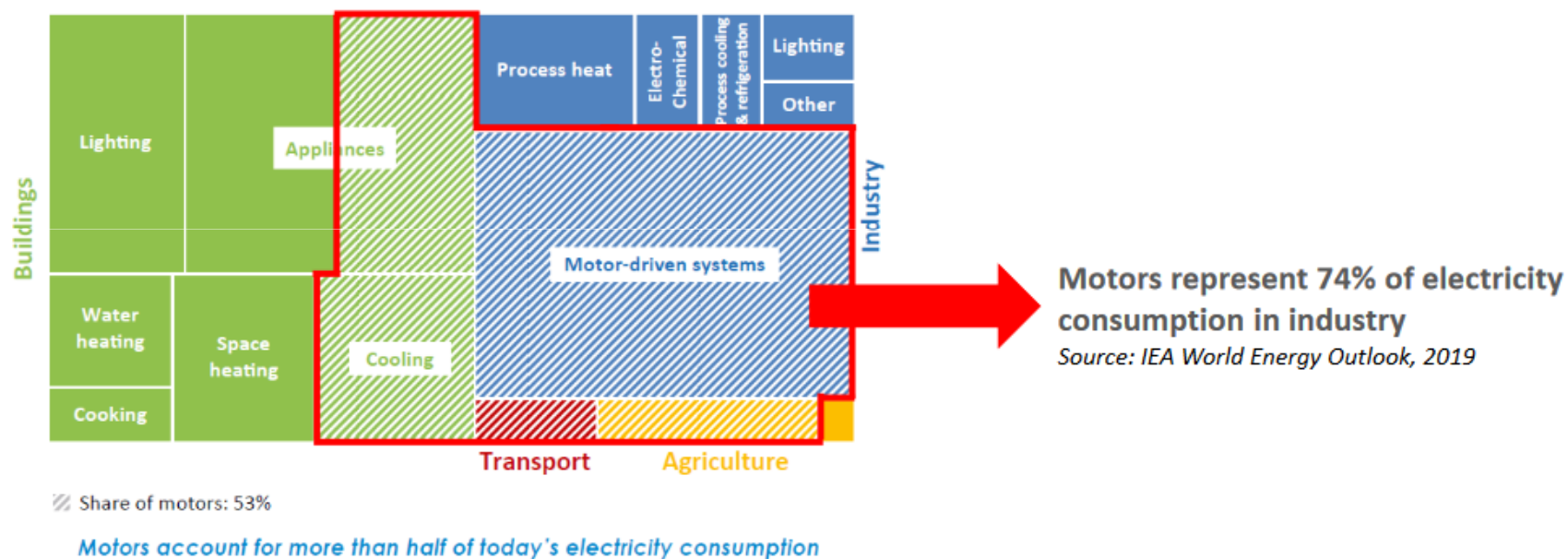
**Decarbonising Cu production**  
Copper producers that ECI represents in Europe are committed to working towards carbon neutrality by 2050

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# The relevance of motors in electricity consumption

# Electric motors are responsible for 53% of the world's total electricity consumption

**Figure 7.9** ▶ Global total final electricity consumption by end-uses, 2014



**Motors are mainly used in industry, large buildings and infrastructure systems. Also transport, agriculture and household appliances include motors.**

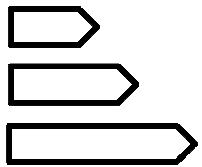
ICI Source: IEA World Energy Outlook, 2016

Source: [https://www.iea-4e.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/IEA\\_Global\\_EE\\_conf\\_2022\\_final.pdf](https://www.iea-4e.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/IEA_Global_EE_conf_2022_final.pdf)

# Electric motor systems policies

Aiming at the uptake of energy efficient electric motors

Minimum  
efficiency  
regulations



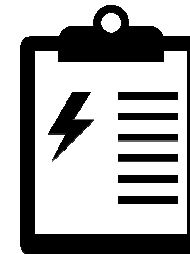
Financial  
Incentives



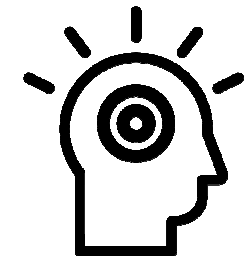
Energy  
Management  
Programmes



Energy Audit  
Programmes



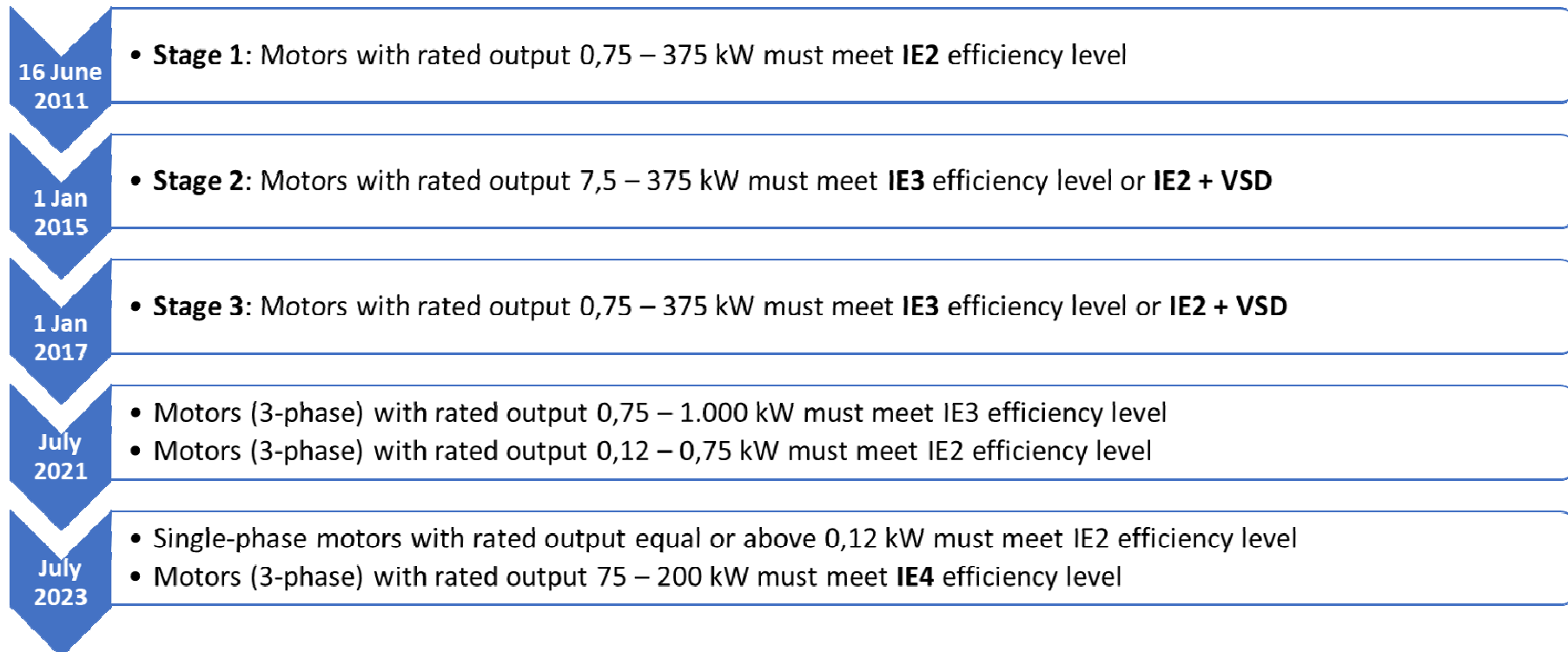
Awareness  
raising and  
information  
provision



# EU existing policy instruments

## Ecodesign Regulation: Electric Motors

### EC Regulations 640/2009 and 2019/1781



# EU existing policy instruments

## Energy Efficiency Directive

**Article 7** obliges Member States to develop an Energy Efficiency Obligation scheme or/and use alternative measures like energy certificates, minimum energy performance requirements etc.

**Article 8** Energy audits and energy management systems



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Motors stay for longer than expected

# Motor Lifetime

## Common assumption

The average lifetime of motors (including repairs) in previous EU studies have been estimated to be:



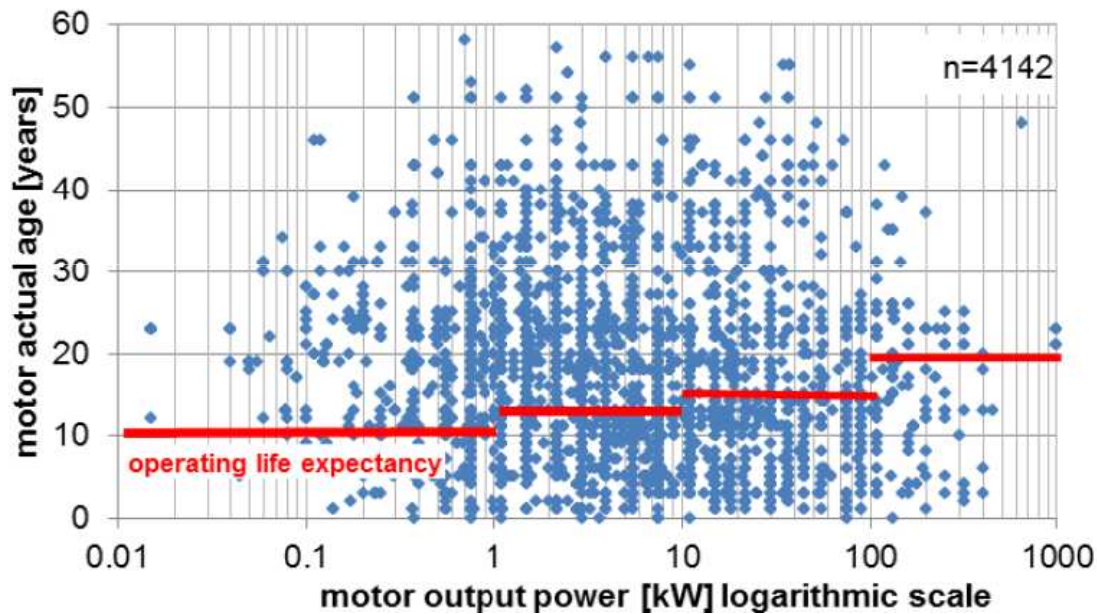
1.0 – 7.5 kW: 12 years

7.5 – 75 kW: 15 years

75 – 250 kW: 20 years

# Motor Lifetime

Swiss Energy Agency S.A.F.E. (2013)



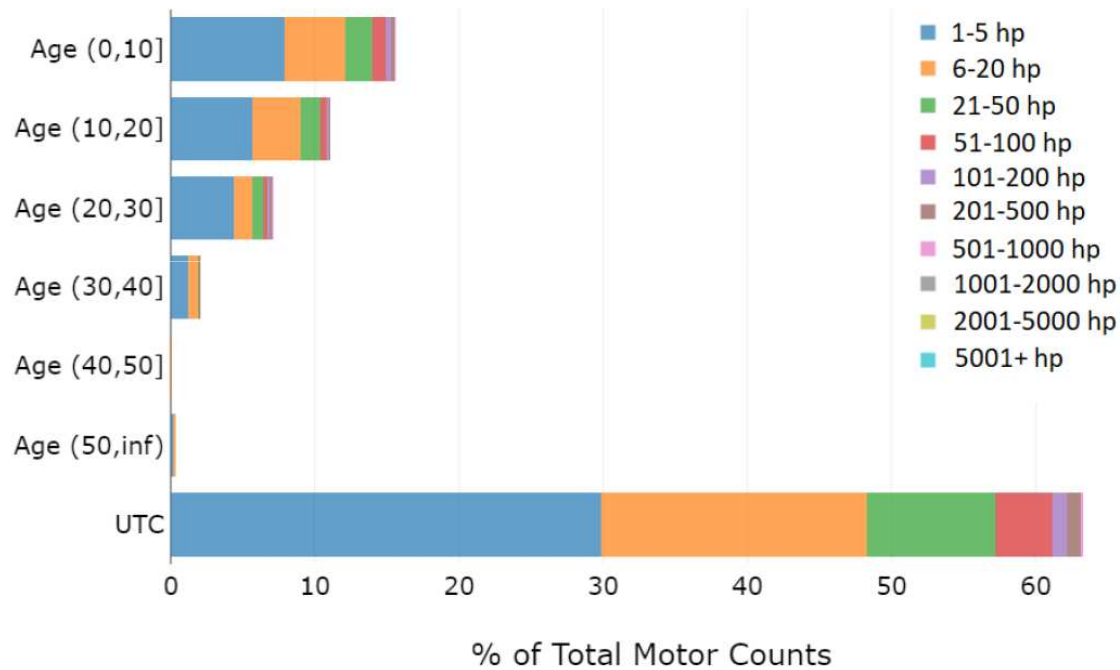
- In 2013 the Swiss Energy Agency S.A.F.E. assessed 4124 separate motor systems in 18 factories.
- The analysis shows that 56% of all motors and their respective systems were older than their expected operating life time (some were twice the expected age).

Source: Impact Energy, Switzerland, 2014

# Motor Lifetime

## US Motor System Market Assessment

### Age of industrial motor systems broken down by size



The new US MS Market Assessment found that the majority of motors is over 10 years old, even for small motors under 20hp

Source: (DoE, 2021) US Motor System Market Assessment

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## Reasons why

# Barriers to motor replacement

- **Efficiency perceived low importance.** When considering options for efficiency improvements in a company, motor efficiency is seen as being of low interest.
- **Economic barriers.** Split incentives; low budget for energy efficiency; relatively long paybacks.
- **Higher upfront costs.** Companies often decide based on purchase cost instead of life cycle costs.
- **Lack of awareness about the co-benefits of energy efficient motors.** The advantages of higher efficiency motors, such as lower maintenance due to lower operating temperatures, process improvements, are often not taken into account in the decision-making process.
- **Split goals between different company departments.** Different departments within a company (production, energy, maintenance, financial, etc.) may have different immediate goals. Sometimes, miscoordination between these departments, in addition to the low budgets for energy efficiency projects, may lead to inaction.

# Barriers to motor replacement

(cont.)

- **Quick availability.** The need for vital plant equipment to be brought on-line again as soon as possible, will mean that when a motor fails they will do whatever is quickest. This often means repairing the motor or replacing it with an old motor in stock. Repairing a motor is seen as the lowest risk option too.
- **Stocks of old motors.** Many sites have stocks of older motors, and there is a natural tendency to use these “free” motors rather than purchase new motors.
- **Increase in length.** Higher efficiency motors will generally have greater active material than less efficient motors, usually seen as an extended stator frame. Longer motors may not fit into all applications.
- **Energy audits.** Energy audits are, sometimes, not anchored in the reality of installations leading to recommendations that are not practical.

# Stocks of old motors

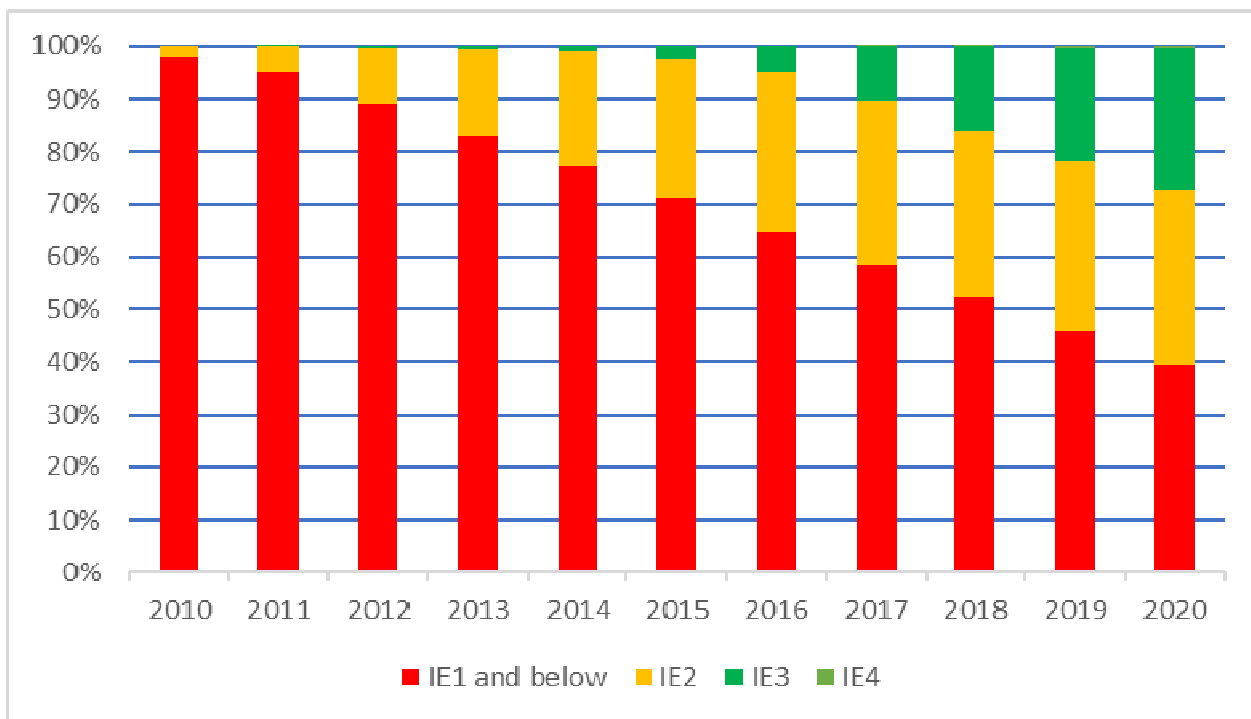


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## Benefits of accelerated replacement

# Motor Stock by Efficiency Class

Preliminary estimate

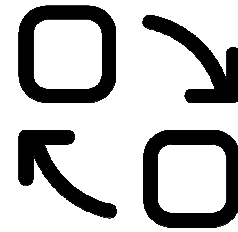


Even when taking the values of 12, 15 and 20 years for the average lifetime, depending on motor power range, it can be seen that, despite the Ecodesign Regulation in place, over 70% of the motors installed in the EU-27 were still IE2 efficiency class or below in 2020

# Accelerate the replacement of old inefficient motors

Estimated impact

Replacing motors with IE2 Class or below



- Assuming an average 4% gain in efficiency, equal to the average difference between IE1 and IE3

The savings triggered would equal **25 TWh/yr.**

# Accelerate the replacement of old inefficient motors

## Estimated impact

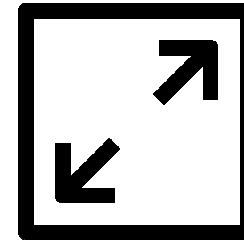
The savings would be even larger if the replacement is made with:

- IE4 or IE5 motors
- correct sizing of the motor,
- equipping the motor with variable speed drive
- digitisation / sensorisation,
- removing unneeded transmissions,
- ...

# Accelerate the replacement of old inefficient motors

Estimated impact

## Correct sizing of motor at the time of replacement



- Motors are most efficient at between 70% and 80% of rated output, with efficiency dropping sharply below 50% of rated output.
- Correct sizing of the motor can bring efficiency gains of up to 5%.

A conservative gain of 2% from correcting sizing when replacing old motors would bring additional savings of **12 TWh/yr.**

# Accelerate the replacement of old inefficient motors

Estimated impact

## Equipping motor with a Variable Speed Drive



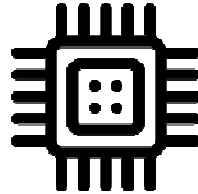
- Savings are typically in the range 15-35%.
- Applications with variable load profiles represent approximately 50 to 60% of all applications.
- Estimates for the market penetration of VSDs to be approximately 45% in 2020 (CEMEP).
- This means that 5 to 15% of motors with variable loads are operated under inefficient control methods.

If VSDs are installed in these motors alongside motor renovations, the savings would amount to between **4,75 TWh/yr** (in the worst case) and **33 TWh/yr** (in the best case).

# Accelerate the replacement of old inefficient motors

Estimated impact

**Digitisation / Sensorisation**

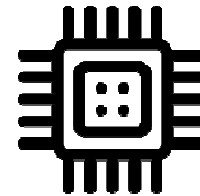
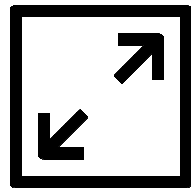
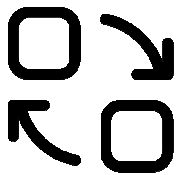


- The Preparatory study for the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2020-2024 identified electricity savings from digitisation of electric motors to be of around 5-10%.

Using the same rationale as above the savings from digitisation of motor systems would be of **31 to 63 TWh/yr.**

# Accelerated Replacement of Electric Motors

## Conclusions



Replacement  
25 TWh

Proper  
sizing  
12 TWh

VSD  
4-33 TWh

Digitisation  
31-63 TWh

**72 to 133 TWh can be saved through proper replacement and accompanying measures**

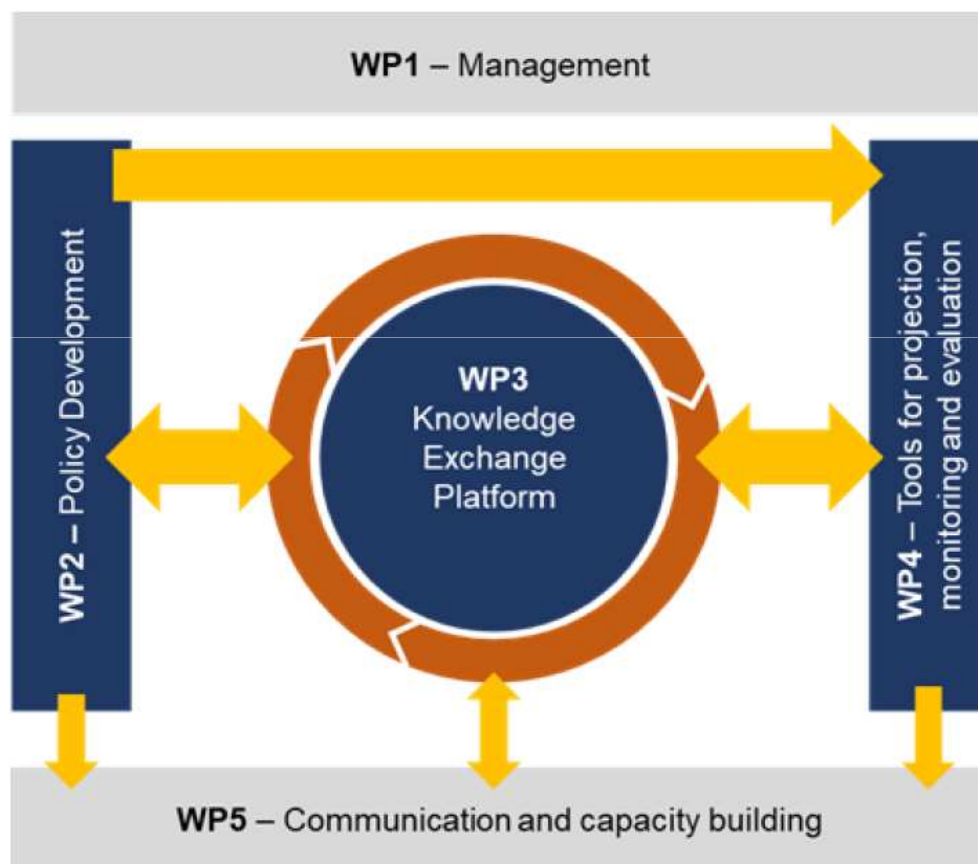
# Accelerated Replacement of Electric Motors

## Further work

- Assess current motor stock (age, power, load, efficiency class) and trends.
- Review past and existing policy options for the acceleration of electric motor renovation identifying best-practices and shortcomings.
- Foster the discussion and knowledge exchange between stakeholders dealing with the promotion of energy-efficiency technologies and energy efficiency policy implementation.
- **Develop new policies** (adapted best practices or new concepts).

# EU-MORE project – Promotion of motor replacement

EU-funded project October 2022 – April 2025





International Copper  
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Thank you!

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