The Government of Kazakhstan is committed to decrease its energy intensity and its contribution to climate change.

Under a new energy efficiency law, passed in 2012, energy-intensive businesses and municipal buildings are required to reduce their energy consumption, monitored by regular mandatory energy audits, and the implementation of energy-saving measures. Such monitoring requires the services of experienced energy auditors. Many companies have so far been unable to comply with these requirements not because of a lack of commitment, but because of the insufficient supply of experienced energy auditors that can carry out this work.

USAID’s Kazakhstan Climate Change Mitigation Program (KCCMP) is working to help Kazakhstan achieve long-term sustainable reductions in energy intensity and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To help achieve this goal, the program provides specialized training to help build the next generation of climate and energy professionals in Kazakhstan.

In partnership with Karaganda State Technical University and Innovative Eurasian University (Pavlodar), licensed energy auditing training centers, USAID established two Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC) that provide on-the-job training to local energy auditors, university faculty and engineering students. The Centers organizes teams of students and faculty that, led by experienced auditors, provide energy audits for regulated enterprises. Trainees gain new skills in energy auditing using national and international standards, identifying and calculating energy losses, and preparing recommendations for energy saving measures to manage energy use over time.

In just the first few months of operation the Centers have organized 8 express energy audits and trained 49 local energy practitioners that have identified annual energy savings of $ 2.4 million (7,825.8 tce). Thanks to USAID support, these IACs will continue to identify energy savings while providing practical trainings for local energy professionals and helping businesses to both be more competitive and to comply with national regulations.