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Towards the end of 2006, several important reports were published by prominent organizations on the topic of a sustainable energy future for the world, including action plans and cost estimates. After the Gleneagles G8 summit meeting held in Scotland in July of 2005, Sir Nicholas Stern was appointed to investigate strategies to contain global warming. His report on the "Economics of Climate Change" issued a stern warning to the world of escalating costs if this issue is not tackled now rather than procrastinated further. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development issued its report in October 2006 under the name of "Powering a Sustainable Future". ABB co-chaired this work through the active participation of CEO Fred Kindle. The International Energy Agency, IEA, in its most recent report estimates that unexploited energy efficiency potential offers the single largest opportunity for emissions reductions.

These reports have two things in common: The demand for electricity will keep increasing and end-user energy efficiency improvement is the only short term remedy to contain rising emission levels. IEA calculates that energy efficiency measures can account for between 31 and 53 percent of CO² emissions reductions by 2050. Technologies to improve the efficiency of energy conversion exist and can be applied cost effectively in all economies and with all end users.

ABB is a major supplier of these technologies. ABB Review will dedicate its next issue to present products and solutions available today that can make a difference in how industry and utility use and produce electricity. The long journey towards the goal of "Powering a Sustainable Future" can start today based on these technologies.