Clothes dryers account for 6% of residential electricity consumption in the United States. They cost U.S. consumers about $9 billion every year. Approximately 85% of households in the U.S. have clothes dryers. They are the only major household appliance without an ENERGY STAR label or utility incentive programs—consuming as much energy as the entire state of Massachusetts in one year.

European heat pump dryers use only 40–50% as much energy as North American conventional dryers to dry the same amount of laundry.

New super-efficient clothes dryers offer a substantial opportunity for North American energy savings. As part of the Super Efficient Dryer Initiative (SEDI), CLASP sponsored Ecova to test both highly efficient European heat pump dryers and North American conventional electric dryers to the same DOE energy efficiency test procedures.

Testing showed that European heat pump dryers use only 40–50% as much energy as North American conventional dryers to dry the same amount of laundry.
The European dryers that were tested took over twice as long to dry; however, the efficiency advantage is large enough that dryer manufacturers should be able to develop North American heat pump dryers that dry quickly, and still offer significant energy savings.

North American conventional dryers had peak power consumption roughly five times as high as European heat pump dryers.

**Demand Impacts**
Replacing conventional dryers with heat pump dryers could have both energy efficiency and electricity demand benefits. The North American conventional dryers tested had peak power consumption roughly five times as high as the European heat pump dryers.

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**Resources Online**
For more information about heat pump dryers, visit: clasponline.org/SEDI

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SEDI—a collaborative initiative promoting a North America market for advanced clothes dryers— is organized by CLASP and Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.