

Bringing Green Deal benefits to citizens and businesses through energy savings

Reducing energy demand is the bedrock for a fast, fair & attractive transition:

1. For the climate.

Energy savings are the fastest way towards a climate neutral Europe.

2. For citizens and businesses.

Energy savings reduce energy bills, create jobs and increase quality of life.

The Coalition for Energy Savings calls on the European Commission to ensure that the Green Deal delivers concrete actions which boost energy efficiency across the EU economy: improve the energy performance of buildings and products, switch to clean mobility and increase energy efficiency in production. It requires implementation, application and rigorous enforcement of the legislative 2030 framework. The energy efficiency target needs to be increased in line with the climate emergency. Energy savings have to be understood as the enabler of a sustainable sector integration.

#1 Reaching the 2030 energy efficiency target

The Commission should swiftly communicate about any existing gap to the 2030 energy efficiency target after final NECPs are submitted, and clearly set out necessary additional measures. As a minimum, this includes a benchmarking process to compare different Member States' contributions, robust enforcement and implementation actions, and a target support package. This package should contain legally binding targets for Member States and additional EU measures. Such measures must be targeted and effective to create citizens' demand for energy efficiency interventions and to develop the energy services market.

#2 Increasing climate and energy targets together (greenhouse gas, energy efficiency, renewable energy)

As the Commission will look at increasing the climate target for 2030, it should ensure that the energy efficiency and the renewables targets are also revised upwards, thus ensuring the three targets are mutually supportive. In particular, the Commission should take into account the full cost-effective potential for energy efficiency which actually stands at 40%¹ minimum by 2030. The underlying modelling exercise should also factor in the multiple benefits of energy efficiency.

¹ This means 40% reduction of energy demand compared to the PRIMES 2007 baseline, same as the EU's 2020 and 2030 target metric. The Fraunhofer ISI (2019) "[Study on Energy Savings Scenarios 2050](#)" shows that the available techno-economic energy savings potentials across sectors reduce annual final energy demand in the EU to 849 Mtoe by 2030, 631 Mtoe by 2040 and 533 Mtoe by 2050 (see Figure 7).

#3 Ensuring the energy efficiency first principle is implemented to enable sustainable sector integration

Sector integration needs to be built on reducing first of all energy demand and managing system efficiency. This will ensure affordability, maximise demand flexibility and the deployment of renewable energy supply. In order to avoid locking the EU into costly infrastructure, the energy efficiency first principle should be operationalised in the EU's infrastructure strategies, including the decarbonisation package. Energy efficiency has to be considered along the whole energy chain.

Where we stand

The role of energy efficiency

Greenhouse gas emissions related to energy use represent a significant share of the EU's climate impact.

The EU's energy policies aim at keeping energy prices in check and ensuring access to reliable sources of clean energy.

Energy efficiency is a tool to achieve all these objectives. Each additional 1% energy savings matters: it can lift 7 million people out of energy poverty, it secures 500,000 local jobs, avoids 37 million tons of CO₂, and cuts EU gas imports by 2.6%.

Current framework

There are many barriers hindering these benefits from energy efficiency. This is why the European Union and Member States developed a comprehensive legislative framework for energy

efficiency. Targets have been set for 2020 and 2030.

Unfortunately, the EU is not on track to deliver its 2020 energy efficiency target, and Member States have not yet shown how the 2030 targets will be met either.

More information

- » EU priority actions 2019-2024 for a fast, fair and attractive energy transition ([position paper](#))
- » 2050 Energy Efficiency Vision ([vision paper](#))
- » State of Energy Efficiency in National Energy and Climate Plans ([publication](#))
- » Energy Efficiency. Getting real: from EU law to action on the ground ([recommendations](#))

About us - The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together civil society, industry, cities and professionals to make energy efficiency and savings the first consideration of energy policies and the driving force towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European Union. Coalition members represent:

- » more than 500 associations, 200 companies, 1,500 cooperatives
- » 15 million supporters and 1 million citizens as members of cooperatives
- » 2,500 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe