

Energy



The EU's energy policies aim to ensure a secure, competitive and affordable supply of energy while meeting its climate targets.

Europe faces a number of major energy challenges. In addition to the basic objectives of ensuring secure energy supplies across the EU at reasonable prices for everyone, there is a growing need to facilitate the shift from a fossil-based economy towards a carbon-neutral system – the so-called clean energy transition. It also needs to become more energy efficient, embrace innovation and new technologies, improve cross-border energy connections and reduce dependence on energy imports.

What the EU does

Each Member State remains in charge of defining its own energy mix, but the coordination of rules at EU level provides a common approach that enhances the overall impact of measures and enables the EU to show global leadership in the fight against climate change. Through the [Clean Energy for All Europeans initiative](#), the EU is currently updating our common rules in a way that will facilitate and encourage future investment and thereby accelerate the clean energy transition and help deliver on the EU's [Paris Agreement](#) commitments.

Having previously set targets for 2020, new targets have now been agreed for 2030.

- At least a 40 % cut in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels (20 % by 2020).
- At least 32 % of all energy consumed to come from renewable sources (20 % by 2020).
- At least a 32.5 % increase in energy efficiency compared to business-as-usual (20 % by 2020).

- An electricity interconnection target of 10 % by 2020, with a view to reaching 15 % by 2030.

A further EU initiative is the establishment of the [European Energy Union](#), which will improve synergies with other policy areas, such as transport, research and innovation, digitalisation, the circular economy, and sustainable financing.

Tackling these challenges at EU level will also provide new opportunities in terms of growth and jobs, research, and a more

competitive and sustainable energy market. The benefits for consumers should also be significant in terms of their rights to change energy suppliers, lower household bills, and quality of life issues such as less air pollution.

[Some of the additional policies and actions](#) that help ensure that the EU meets its goals include.

- New cross-border networks for gas and electricity ([Projects of Common Interest](#)), including projects to better integrate renewables into the grid.
- [Ecodesign and energy labels](#) aimed at driving greater energy efficiency in household products.
- Supporting EU-wide research and innovation projects aimed at accelerating all aspects of the clean energy transition through the [Horizon 2020](#) framework programme.
- Contributing to the [ITER international fusion project](#), one of the most ambitious energy projects in the world.



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