



#WARM HOMES 4 ALL
Renewables heating campaign

PRESS RELEASE

New Report: Barriers and solutions to the renewable heating transition

Brussels, 22nd February - CAN Europe's launches a new [report on renewable heating](#), which finds that **ineffective EU and national policies are not keeping up with demand as homes and businesses look to reduce their energy consumption and cut down on costs and emissions**. Despite the urgent need to wean off fossil fuels and increase energy savings, many economic and non-economic barriers still exist on both the demand and supply side.

As of today, coinciding with the International Energy Poverty Action week and marking a year of Russia's invasion of Ukraine that exposed Europe's over reliance on fossil fuels and the fragility of its heating sector, progress has been slow. Despite the European Commission's attempt to rectify this in its 'REPowerEU' plan which looks to double the rate for the installation of heat pumps in the EU before 2030, European Governments continue to pay millions in subsidies for new fossil gas boilers to be installed in homes.

The report reveals that public financing should be redirected away from fossil fuel subsidies towards improving energy efficiency, building renovations and moving district heating systems to renewables. Efforts should be made to raise public awareness on the benefits of renewable heating and its role in reducing energy consumption, costs and emissions, helping Europe out of this multifaceted crisis.

"Sustainable renewable heating solutions are already available across Europe, but change isn't happening fast enough. When it comes to the ongoing fossil fuel crisis, the elephant in the room is the heating installations running on fossil fuels, leading to rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions and energy poverty. If we are to protect the people and the climate in winters to come, clear policy objectives, more financial support, a skilled workforce and easy access to independent information for all, are essential to transform European countries' outdated heating systems to renewable and efficient models." - **Mónica Vidal, Renewable Heating campaigner at CAN Europe.**

"The awareness of the need to switch from fossil fuels to renewable options in heating of buildings increased significantly with the rise of energy prices in 2022. Although there are several plans for energy refurbishment of buildings in Croatia, no comprehensive planning

*for heating decarbonisation exists. For citizens to be able to install new heating systems based on renewable energy, clear funding options are needed as well as the support to the most vulnerable households to avoid (energy) poverty and deepening class differences.” - **Maja Bratko, Senior Expert, Society for Sustainable Development Design (DOOR)***

*It is very important that member states take responsibility when it comes to heating decarbonization. A ban on new fossil boilers in buildings is the first step to ensure that we work against an oil and gas lock in the heating sector. Meaningful support schemes for district heating and heat pumps can push a fast fossil heat phase out. - **Julie Abrahams, policy officer, Green Transition Denmark.***

*Energy efficiency is a strategic key option for lowering energy prices, increasing energy security and tackling energy poverty. Although Italian fiscal supporting schemes for buildings' renovations represent an advanced example at European level, they are affected by temporal instability, regulatory fragmentation and weak effectiveness. In order to make energy efficiency and heating decarbonization good options for economic growth and energy security, a long-term planning for building decarbonization coupled with an adequate financial support mechanism is needed. - **Francesca Andreolli, Researcher, ECCO think tank.***

*There are a plethora of reasons to embrace the transition to renewable heating, especially given the current international context. We all have heard by now how important it is to become energy independent, but that's only the tip of the iceberg. This transition will bring us closer to achieving our climate goals and will have direct consequences on European citizens improving our health and comfort, business competitiveness, and saving money in our energy bills. Energy efficiency is key and many options are already available in the market to enable citizens to take advantage of it. In order to boost this transition, many barriers have been identified and action from not only public administration, but also citizens and industry. - **Daniel Sanz, Project Manager, ECODES.***

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Notes to the Editor:

Factsheet:

<https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2023/02/FACTSHEET-Barriers-Solutions-to-Renewable-Heating.pdf>

Full report:

https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2023/02/202302_Final-version_CAN-Europe-bringing-on-barriers-for-renewable-heating-solutions_layout-2.pdf

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