

Embracing a renewable heating revolution in our buildings!

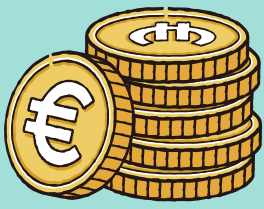
Factsheet

22nd February 2022

A shift to a 100% sustainable, renewable heat supply is now urgently needed. Our villages and cities are the scenes where ready-to-go solutions such as renewable electricity that powers heat pumps are emerging thanks to first movers. However, change isn't happening as fast as we need, now is the time to urgently scale-up.

This factsheet provides an overview of [our report on the economic and non-economic barriers](#) that exist on both the demand and supply side when it comes to renewable heating as well as the solutions to these barriers. Stronger policy and financial frameworks across Europe can overcome these barriers and unlock the renewable heating transition.

Financial support



The upfront costs of renewable heating technologies can make it inaccessible for people, especially those who need it most, vulnerable and low-income households. Financial support can help overcome this problem. Subsidies and rebates and zero-interest and/or state-guaranteed loans can help homes overcome this initial cost. Financial support needs to be targeted to renewable heating solutions and their enablers, and take into account recipients' age, ownership structure, etc

Fossil fuel subsidies

Subsidies for the installation of fossil-fuel based heating systems in buildings should come to an end as of 2024 and this public financing should be rather redirected to improve energy efficiency, building renovations and move district heating systems to renewables.



Wean off fossil fuels

Put a stop to flexibilities and exemptions that would enable installation of using hydrogen and biogas in a blended mix with fossil gas to be installed in existing and new buildings. These systems would jeopardise our climate and energy goals while locking occupants in with polluting heating technologies for many winters to come. Instead, renewable heating installations should put us on a path to completely phase out fossil fuels in buildings by 2035 at the very latest.



Technical support

Homeowners need to be guided and accompanied from the beginning to the end of the process of switching heating technology, and/or renovating their homes. A network of national, regional and local one-stop-shops and other sources of free-of-charge, independent information, would help homeowners and tenants, especially most vulnerable ones, identify and access financial support, refine their project, and even check installers offers and the quality of the installations carried out.

Public authorities and other organisations providing such services should work with social services, local associations and identify and proactively reach out to people in need of support. Such schemes not only support citizens in their projects, but they also help make those providing advice more aware of citizens' situations and needs.



Public Awareness



Public information campaigns can promote the opportunity for renewable heating technologies and highlight how they can benefit households and businesses. There is evidence from countries like Sweden and Germany that a successful renewable heating transition requires significant investment into strategic communications.

A Skilled Workforce

Both governments and manufacturers need to step up their efforts in promoting this sector and enticing a new workforce to install renewable heating systems. They need to first make current installers aware of renewable heating technologies, their importance, benefits, applications, etc. This will make installers more prone to recommending such technologies to their customers. In addition, to attract new installers, and boost training, Governments and the private sector need to team up in a notable recruiting and training effort. Financial and political support should be offered to facilitate the unionisation of workers engaged in new green jobs.



Stronger supply chain

With a strong post-COVID recovery and geopolitical tensions, resources and materials for renewable heating systems are limited. In the short-term, this issue can be addressed by installers of renewable heating equipment through diversifying suppliers, and pre-ordering some equipment to make sure there is a stock to offer to clients. Long-term supply chain disruptions could lead to partial or total relocation of the renewable heating industry, particularly in former coal and industrial regions which can be funded by the Just Transition Fund, among other Funds.



Clear Policy Objectives

Governments need to provide clear objectives for heating decarbonisation, taking inspiration from countries that have already done so (UK, NL, DE). Such objectives could take many forms: a date by which all heating needs be decarbonised, an ambitious target rate for deep renovations encompassing work on envelope and the installations of renewable heating and cooling technologies per year, an obligation to install renewable technologies or connect to (renewable) district heating networks when replacing a boiler, etc. These objectives should contribute to EU and national energy and climate goals.

National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) should be updated in the revision plans to assure an ambitious level regarding the renewables share in the heating & cooling sector leading to a 100% renewable energy system by 2040 in combination with the reduction of energy needs and with a clear phase out of fossil fuels.



The application of these measures should contribute to transforming European buildings where more than 450 million of us live, study and work, into sustainable and climate-friendly buildings.

Heating our homes urgently needs to become renewable, accessible, efficient and affordable for all. This will entail positive impacts on peoples' everyday lives, to make them more comfortable, safe, and healthy.

Full Report: <https://caneurope.org/renewable-heating-barriers-solutions/>

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