



EFIEES

**EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTELLIGENT
ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES**



MANIFESTO

2019-2024

About EFIEES:

We represent the interests of companies providing
Energy Efficiency Services in the EU and promote their activities.

5 Key Messages

FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT EUROPE

In order to deliver on its Paris Agreement commitments, in the past legislature the EU has updated its energy and climate policy framework, notably, through the Clean Energy Package. Moreover, it has adopted its long-term vision for decarbonisation, establishing the ambitious goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. The new European Commission has not only confirmed these objectives, but it has also committed itself to deliver on what had been previously agreed and to strive for more with the launch of a new and ambitious sustainable growth strategy, the EU Green Deal, which aims at completely changing our society.

IN THIS CONTEXT, WE CALL ON EUROPEAN LEGISLATORS TO PRIORITISE THE FOLLOWING KEY ACTIONS ON THE AGENDA OF DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS...

1 PUTTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY FIRST

At a time when the EU is lagging behind in reaching its energy efficiency target and greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to have increased, **it is imperative that improving energy efficiency remains a top political priority** for the European Union.

The 'energy efficiency first' principle, recognised by the Governance of the Energy Union Regulation, implies that cost-effective energy efficiency measures, which make both energy demand and supply more efficient, are taken into utmost consideration in energy planning, as well as in policy and investment decisions. Future energy policies and measures, both at national and

European level, should in consequence reflect this principle as it represents the driving force for a fair and affordable energy transition, as well as **the most cost-efficient solution to achieve the EU climate and energy targets**. Moreover, to allow for a proper evaluation of the energy efficiency performance, the assessment of the overall energy consumption at Member State level should be based on primary energy.

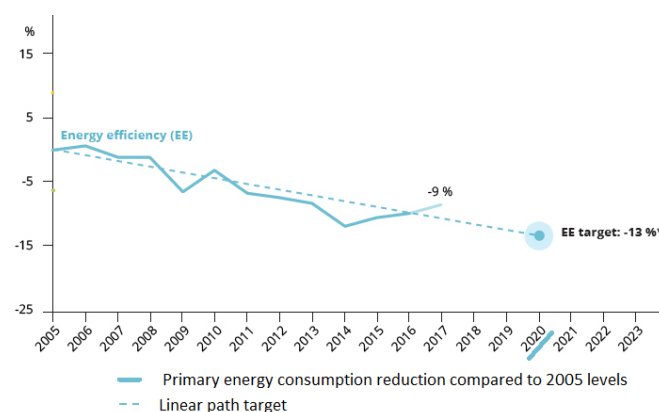


Figure 1: EU Energy Efficiency 2020 target, © EEA (European Environment Agency)

THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE AND LESS POLLUTING ENERGY IS THE ENERGY WE DON'T PRODUCE, THAT IS WHY WE CALL ON THE CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 'ENERGY EFFICIENCY FIRST' PRINCIPLE ACROSS ALL SECTORS.

2 ESTABLISHING AN APPROPRIATE POLICY FOR THE DECARBONISATION OF THE HEATING AND COOLING SECTOR

The **heating and cooling sector accounts for half of the energy consumption in the EU**, and therefore ensuring its decarbonisation is a crucial priority. Thermal energy will remain essential in the future, since our heating and cooling needs will be mainly met through hot or cold water. Renovation of existing buildings will surely reduce their energy needs; however, we must acknowledge that,

especially in the short and medium term, **these needs cannot be sustainably met just through a massive switch to electrification**. For this reason, there is a **need to modernise and decarbonise existing thermal assets**, improving their energy efficiency and increasing their share of renewables. Moreover, thermal needs are local and they should rely mainly on local solutions.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR A FRAMEWORK THAT FACILITATES THE DECARBONISATION OF THE THERMAL SECTOR, IN COMBINATION WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES, IS URGENTLY NEEDED. SUCH A FRAMEWORK HAS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE LOCAL HEATING & COOLING NEEDS AND POTENTIAL.

3 ENSURING A BALANCED APPROACH BETWEEN THE SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE SOURCES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

On the EU decarbonisation pathway, keeping the right balance between support for renewables and energy efficiency is key. The latter is, most of the time, a prerequisite for transitioning towards the former, and essential to ensure a successful energy transition. **The lower the energy needs of the European Union are, the easier it will be to meet them through the use of renewable sources.** Decarbonising the economy is not only a matter of raising the production of renewable energies, it is also about reducing energy consumption.

Actions supporting renewable energy sources are not substituting energy efficiency measures. The latter must always be considered first and as long as the marginal cost of avoided CO₂ emissions is optimised, supporting the goal of an affordable energy transition. **An approach that fosters a balance between measures aimed at**

reducing energy demand and actions for greening the fuel mix is the right way forward. The reduction of energy consumption and improvements along the whole energy efficiency chain will help reduce demand and dependence on fossil fuels, facilitating the progressive decarbonisation of the entire energy system.

FUTURE LEADERS NEED TO ENSURE AN AMBITIOUS AND BALANCED APPROACH FOR THE SUPPORT OF TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN: ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND THE PROGRESSIVE UPTAKE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY.

4 FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES THAT GUARANTEE SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENTS OVER TIME

The building sector is the largest consumer of energy in the EU; it is responsible for approximately 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO₂ emissions in the EU. Energy efficiency upgrades and the effective energy management of existing buildings have the potential to lead to significant energy savings. Thus, ensuring energy efficiency improvements in buildings is fundamental and has to be achieved in the most appropriate and cost-effective way.

Identifying and implementing the best solutions for each building in order to improve its energy performance and comfort level is the main mission and core activity of energy efficiency services (EES). **Energy efficiency services and energy efficient solutions, such as energy performance contracting (EPC), commit to achieving guaranteed energy savings/energy efficiency gains and maintaining the obtained results over time,** through continuous monitoring, effective operation and maintenance. In this way, EPCs represent fundamental mechanisms to improve buildings' energy efficiency because the design of an adequate energy solution is

supported by a continuous energy management. The added value of the contractual solutions offered by EES is that they are **based on commitments on actual energy consumption which are measurable and verifiable ex-post.** These should complement current and future criteria such as Energy Performance certificates, "Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings" or "eco-districts".

In light of this, energy efficiency services, which remain largely unknown and still have a large untapped potential in Europe, **should be always considered before starting an intervention on a given building,** as they represent the perfect complement and/or alternative to deep renovation measures.



TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES AT EUROPEAN LEVEL, POSITIVE PROMOTION MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN, INCLUDING AWARENESS AND TRUST RAISING. EFIEES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A KEY PARTNER FOR EU LEGISLATORS IN BUILDING SUCH A FRAME.

Figure 2: Benefits of Energy Efficiency Services, © EFIEES

5 PROMOTING DISTRICT ENERGY PLANNING

Continuing with the need to reduce the energy consumption of the European building stock, a territorial/district approach that addresses energy needs at local scale, rather than a perspective focused on the individual building, should be favoured. **A systemic approach that takes into consideration storage and production capacities at district level, enhances the efficiency of the system as a whole**, therefore reducing the costs and the utilisation of additional fossil fuels.

In this respect, district heating and cooling networks currently play a major role as “aggregators” of various energy sources and have the potential to become the main vector for renewable energies in our economy.

The use of waste heat and of renewable energies such as biomass or solar thermal can contribute to a circular economy and to a more efficient use of resources at local level. Finally, a district-level perspective is at the

PROMOTING A DISTRICT-BASED APPROACH ADDRESSES THE CHALLENGE OF MAKING AN EFFICIENT USE OF THE ENERGY WE NEED. EUROPEAN LEADERS MUST SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFICIENT DISTRICT HEATING AND COOLING NETWORKS, ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR KEY ROLE IN THE DECARBONISATION OF CITIES.



core of the concept of smart cities - where different solutions such as digital technologies, demand-response mechanisms, storage, recovery of locally available excess heat and services are increasingly integrated, benefitting from the synergies of combined actions.

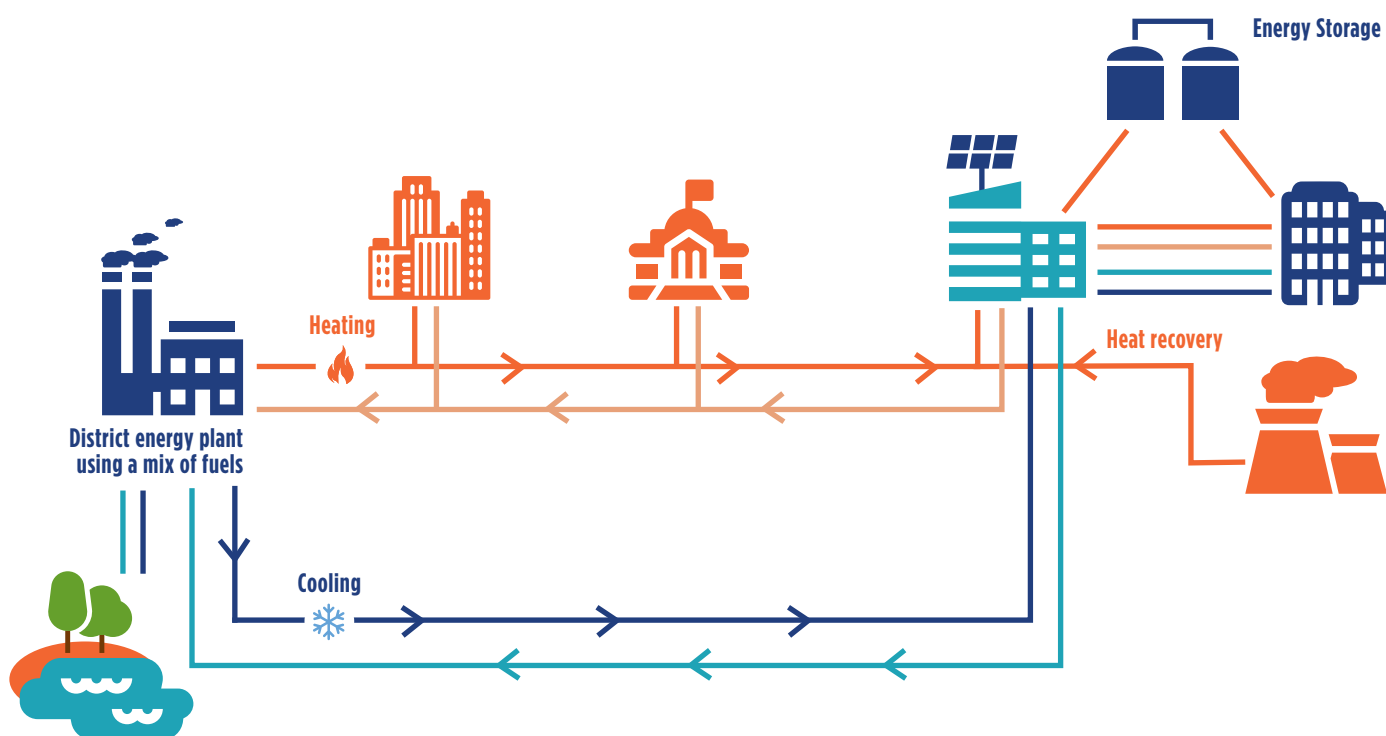


Figure 3: District Energy Planning, ©EFIEES

Contact us!



European Federation of Intelligent
Energy Efficiency Services



www.efiees.eu
info@efiees.eu



+32 (0)2 230 65 50
[@efiees](https://twitter.com/efiees)