

EU Measures to Increase Energy Independence and Affordability in 2026

The European Commission has presented a **new policy package**:

Objectives



Reduce EU dependence on imported fossil fuels and exposure to energy price volatility.



Lower energy costs for households and industry.



Accelerate deployment of domestic clean energy technologies and strengthen EU energy security.

Main policy initiatives

CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Measures aimed at **boosting investment**:

- Mobilise private capital for the energy transition and reduce investment risk.
- Address the investment gap estimated at ~€660 billion per year to 2030.

Key actions:

- European Investment Bank (EIB) to provide €75 billion in financing over the next three years.
- Creation of a Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund, with up to €500 million in EIB anchor capital, to attract private investment in energy infrastructure.
- Priority investment areas: Electricity grids and cross-border infrastructure / Innovative clean technologies (leveraging advanced renewables, storage, CCS/CCUS) / Small Modular Reactors and Advanced Modular Reactors (SMRs/AMRs) / Energy efficiency and electrification



CITIZENS ENERGY PACKAGE

Measures aimed at **reducing energy bills and strengthening consumer empowerment**.

Key actions:

- Lower electricity taxes and levies, potentially reducing household bills by around 14% (~€200/year).
- Faster supplier switching (target: within 24 hours) to increase competition, provide customers with 'best tariff advice' and put in place an 'early warning system'.
- Promotion of energy communities and self-consumption, (including biogas and biomethane and local waste management), which could serve 25-30 million households by 2030.
- Support for flexible electricity contracts, potentially lowering bills by up to 40% through demand shifting.
- Measures to combat energy poverty, affecting around 42 million Europeans unable to adequately heat their homes.



STRATEGY FOR SMALL MODULAR REACTORS (SMRs)

Measures aimed at **unlocking and exploiting the potential of SMRs**:

- Support development and deployment of SMR nuclear technologies in Europe.
- Objective: first operational SMRs in the EU in the early 2030s.

Key actions:

- Development coordinated through the European Industrial Alliance on SMRs.
- Potential €200 million additional InvestEU support from the Innovation Fund until 2028 to de-risk early projects.
- Strategy aims to build a European nuclear supply chain and regulatory cooperation framework while maintaining strict safety standards.



Expected outcomes



- Increased **energy independence** through domestic clean energy production.
- **Lower energy prices** for households and industry.
- Stronger **European industrial capacity in net-zero technologies**.
- Greater **resilience of the EU energy system** to geopolitical shocks.

Key figures of the EC's policy initiatives

<p>€660 bn/year</p> <p>of investment needed for the energy transition (to 2030)</p>	<p>€75 bn</p> <p>of EIB financing (2026-2028)</p>	<p>€500 m</p> <p>of initial EIB capital contribution to mobilise investment in energy infrastructure</p>
<p>↓14% €200</p> <p>of potential annual household bill reduction from lower electricity levies</p>	<p>20-30 million households</p> <p>with potential participation in energy communities</p>	<p>1st SMRs in EU</p> <p>in the early 2030s</p>