

How to support energy transition and reduce energy poverty?



What is energy poverty and what are the causes?

Energy poverty occurs when a household cannot achieve the minimum level of domestic energy consumption required for satisfying basic needs and for an effective participation in society. Energy poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, considered to be caused by a combination of **low-income, high-energy expenses, and poor energy efficiency in buildings**.



Energy poverty can lead to:

- unsuitable indoor temperatures (too hot or too cold)
- deficient air quality
- inadequate comfort and sanitary conditions
- disproportionate energy expenses forcing them into undesirable decisions (for example the 'heat or eat' dilemma)
- precarious access to energy (depending on unstable, insecure supply)
- significant psychological stress over unaffordable energy bills



almost **7%** of the EU population have arrears on their utility bills



over **41 million** Europeans are unable to keep their homes adequately warm



almost **15%** lives in dwellings that leak, damp or rot

The ongoing energy transition to a climate-neutral EU economy requires addressing energy poverty and mitigating the transition's social aspects, to guarantee affordable energy prices and social inclusion.



1. Diagnosis

How to diagnose if your municipality is affected by energy poverty?

- Collect relevant indicators
- Map internal and external stakeholders and host meetings to identify potential synergies - bridge the distance between upper-level policies (national governments, EU) and the local communities
- Define the character of your local energy poverty and communicate it



2. Planning

- Set a vision with a timeframe
- Create a list of possible actions for tackling energy poverty from emergency measures to long-term actions. - What suits best within the specific local context and the citizens' needs
- Develop a local Social Action Plan (that addresses the following key questions: What? Who? How? When? How much?)



3. Implementation

Implement the action plan with addressing the definition of barriers and opportunities.

- Prioritize properly - select appropriate actions with matrix method
- Awareness campaign - consistent communication with clear messaging and empathy with the target audience
- Home visits to the vulnerable households - sharing tips
- One-stop shops - centralized hubs, either physical or virtual, where consumers can find information about various energy-related services and information.
- Home renovation actions to improve energy efficiency

	Short timeframe	Medium timeframe	Long timeframe
Low impact	Home visits; Awareness campaign	Awareness campaign	Behavioural changes
High impact	Subsidies, financial instruments	Integrating energy poverty in SECAPs; Crowdfunding campaign	One-stop shops; Renovation of buildings