



PRIORITY SECTOR
Environment, Energy,
Climate Change and Low
Carbon Economy

Programme area n°12

Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security

OBJECTIVE

Less carbon intensive energy and increased security of supply

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Energy efficiency in production, distribution and/or end use
- > Renewable energy production and/or distribution
- > Recovery of energy from waste or hazardous waste
- > Energy security
- > Renewable energy policies in all relevant sectors
- > Energy markets

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Energy efficiency measures in the industrial sector
- > Production of renewable geothermal energy for multipurpose use, mainly for district heating, but also for increased efficiency of distribution
- > Production of energy from renewable resources
- > Energy saving measures in households
- > Energy recovery from waste or pre-treated hazardous waste as an energy source (co-processing) in industrial processes
- > Improved energy security through diversification
- > Development of energy markets and improvement of the infrastructure for gas and electricity
- > Awareness-raising

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

The goal of the EU's energy strategy is to ensure that Europe has secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy. This implies a wide range of measures in all the five dimensions of the Energy Union: 1) energy security; 2) the internal energy market; 3) energy efficiency; 4) de-carbonisation of the economy; and 5) research, innovation and competitiveness.

Well-functioning and efficient energy markets – with adequate infrastructure and an effective legislative framework – are preconditions for security of supply, and for developing an effective climate policy in Europe.

The European energy sector is currently facing the challenge of moving from the use of fossil fuels and high energy consumption to an increased use of renewable energy and high energy efficiency. This move is fundamental for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Otherwise, Europe will not be able to meet its commitments to reduce emissions.

This calls for a climate change-focused energy model. Such a model will not only address the need to mitigate climate change: a push towards less carbon intensive economies will also promote research and innovation in climate-friendly technology. It will create job opportunities in sectors where a highly skilled workforce is needed. Promoting the use of domestic renewable energy and less carbon intensive technologies is therefore a key element for a more competitive Europe.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are committed to international efforts to tackle climate change, a commitment shared with the European Union. The EEA and Norway Grants will fund programmes focusing on renewable energy, energy security and energy efficiency in line with the Energy Union objectives and the Europe 2020 strategy targets of 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emission, 20% of energy from renewables and 20% increase in energy efficiency.

The move towards less carbon intensive economies calls for involvement from a wide range of stakeholders. This includes all sectors and levels of government, the private sector and in particular SMEs, the research community and the general public. Bilateral cooperation is an essential part of the EEA and Norway Grants allowing donor and beneficiary countries to share knowledge and experience when it comes to mitigating climate change. This is particularly the case when it comes to energy efficiency in industries and renewable energy solutions such as geothermal, solar, wind and hydro energy.

PROGRAMME AREA SPECIFICS

- > Programmes targeting greenhouse gas reductions and/or avoidance through energy efficiency measures shall deliver considerable reductions at a reasonable cost; a maximum of 150 EUR grant per tonne CO₂ equivalent per year reduced/avoided should be aimed for
- > Priority shall be given to bilateral partnerships offering added value

BILATERAL INTEREST

To achieve a less carbon intensive and more secure energy supply, the sharing of knowledge and experience is crucial. The donor and beneficiary countries shall cooperate bilaterally, especially in the areas of energy efficiency, and renewable energy such as geothermal and hydro energy.