



Draft

Title: **ENERGY POVERTY. A just energy transition of European regions means energy poverty eradication.**

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1 Access to energy is directly related to the well-being of society and people.
2 Actions as basic as cooking, preserving food, access to hot water, lighting,
3 etc. require access to energy which, unfortunately, is not always guaranteed for
4 everyone equally. This situation is known as energy poverty.

5 Since the creation of the European Union, energy has been considered a decisive
6 aspect within the European integration process, to the point that two of the
7 three constituent Treaties revolve around the energy sector. More than half a
8 century later, the EU does not have a consensual definition of what 'energy
9 poverty' means and has confined energy policies within the logic of market
10 rules. It is thus considered as a 'good or service'. Far from considering energy
11 as a common good and a basic right to be guaranteed, energy in Europe has been
12 controlled by monopolies and oligopolies, to the benefit of the few companies
13 that dominate the markets.

14 Energy poverty can be defined as the situation in which a household is unable to
15 pay for sufficient access to energy services to satisfy its domestic needs
16 and/or when it is forced to allocate an excessive part of its income to pay the
17 energy bill. According to data from the Energy Poverty Observatory (EOPV), it is
18 estimated that more than 34 million people in the EU suffer from the effects of
19 energy poverty. In 2019, 7.4% of Europeans were unable to pay for basic energy
20 services; 6.6% delayed the payment of their bills; 16.2% used an excessive part
21 of their income to pay energy bills; and 14.6% of households were unable to

22 fully satisfy their energy needs.

23 During the summer of 2021, market prices have increased exponentially, which has
24 meant a significant rise in the price of energy sources, reaching over EUR
25 200/MWh. Add to this the high unemployment rates in some countries and we can
26 expect poverty energy to rise in millions of households. Energy poverty is also
27 a potential indicator of health conditions which cause thousands of premature
28 deaths each year.

29 Therefore, energy poverty must be tackled urgently. Governments and the EU must
30 act now so that this winter the right to energy is guaranteed to those who do
31 not have access to a clean source of energy.

32 **Based on the above, the European Greens are asking the EU to fight energy**
33 **poverty by implementing the following actions:**

34 1. Transform the European energy sector so that EU Member States can intervene
35 in their energy markets when they present extreme variations that may affect
36 social and economic stability.

37 This transformation of the energy sector must comply with the 65% CO₂ emission
38 reduction objective for 2030, as established in the Paris Agreement. The energy
39 transition must be directed across Europe to improve savings and energy
40 efficiency. We must reach a production level of 50% renewables in 2030 and 100%
41 by 2040. This should be an obligation throughout the EU.

42 2. Carry out an audit of real energy costs and the surplus profits generated by
43 actual high energy market prices. Provide adequate compensation for the
44 surpluses of shared self-consumption and self-consumption inside energy
45 communities.

46 3. Instigate preferential energy rehabilitation policies in those homes
47 inhabited by beneficiaries of the social bonus from public administrations in
48 order to achieve the maximum energy rating, thereby simultaneously lowering
49 energy demand.

50 4. Advance towards a system that, through regulations and tax incentives,
51 favours energy efficiency and distributes renewable energy sources, prioritising
52 self-consumption and energy communities.

53 5. Adapt the type of tax in each country to the number of people and their
54 living situation (energy rating of the home, climatic zone, consumption, etc.).
55 Establish a minimum vital energy level of 0% for the first consumption unit, and
56 progressively increase taxation.

57 6. Determine the amount of social aid required to eradicate energy poverty,
58 considering the income level and the special circumstances of each household,
59 including the climate zone (need for heating and cooling energy due to the
60 climate crisis and associated extreme thermal events).

61 7. Simplify the procedures and identification of compliance with the
62 requirements of the beneficiaries, allowing the data to be exchanged between the
63 competent administrations electronically.

64 8. Develop assistance programmes for the acquisition of high-energy-efficient
65 appliances, with particular attention to the beneficiaries of social aid, in
66 order to reduce the intensive use of energy. In addition, develop assistance
67 programmes for the acquisition of house-insulation systems and improvements in
68 energy-saving materials in homes.