

Investing in a sustainable energy future for Europe

The EU is actively promoting Europe's transition to a low-carbon society, and is updating its rules in order to facilitate the necessary private and public investment in the clean energy transition. This should not only be good for the planet, but also good for the economy and good for consumers.

• Summaries of EU legislation on energy

The low carbon transition aims to create a sustainable energy sector which stimulates growth, innovation, and jobs whilst improving quality of life, increasing choice, reinforcing consumer rights, and ultimately providing savings in household bills.

A streamlined and coordinated EU approach ensures a genuinely continental impact in the fight against climate change. Moves to encourage renewables and improve energy efficiency are central to reducing Europe's greenhouse gas emissions and meeting Paris Agreement commitments.

• Renewable energy

• Energy label and ecodesign

Through the European energy union, the EU is ensuring there is a greater coherence in all policy areas to meet the broad objectives of creating a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy system.

The EU also provides various funding opportunities and lending schemes to help companies and regions successfully implement energy projects.

• Energy funding opportunities

On the international stage, the EU plays an important role, working together with other countries, regions and international organisations to tackle energy problems and ensure a reliable, competitive energy market within Europe.

Human rights and democracy

Promoting and protecting human rights

There are two main streams of human rights policy and action within the European Union. One is to protect the fundamental human rights for EU citizens, and the other is to promote human rights worldwide.

• Summaries of EU legislation on human rights

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees EU citizens' rights. The Charter lays down the fundamental rights that are binding upon EU institutions and bodies. It also applies to national governments when they are implementing EU law.

• EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

• Fundamental rights for EU citizens

The European Union is based on a strong commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law worldwide. Human rights are at the heart of EU relations with other countries and regions.

EU policy includes:

- promoting the rights of women, children, minorities and displaced persons
- opposing the death penalty, torture, human trafficking and discrimination
- defending civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
- defending human rights through active partnership with partner countries, international and regional

