

Webinar

Moving towards a green and gender equal energy transition

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Why is energy key to the European Green Deal?



Energy production and use accounts for more than 75 % of the EU's carbon emissions



Energy transition key to achieving the emission reduction targets set by the European Green Deal



Decrease in energy consumption needed alongside greater energy efficiency and higher share of renewable energy



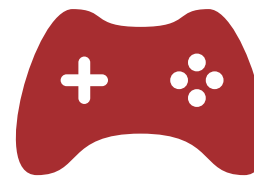
28% of final energy consumption related to residential energy consumption.

Gender roles and norms affect energy use

What do we know?

Taking gender into account key to success in reducing residential energy consumption:

- **Energy curtailing behaviour**
- **Leisure and housework**
- **Load shifting**
- **Access to resources and dynamics within families affect investments in energy efficiency.**



Energy poverty and intersecting inequalities



Energy Efficiency Directive (recast) defines energy poverty as 'a, household's **lack of access to essential energy services** where such services provide basic levels and decent **standards of living and health**, including **adequate heating, hot water, cooling, lighting, and energy to power appliances**, in the relevant national context, existing national social policy and other relevant national policies, caused by a combination of factors, including at least **non-affordability, insufficient disposable income, high energy expenditure and poor energy efficiency of homes;**'

What do we know?

- **Lone parents, people with disability, people born outside of the EU** and women and men with **lower education attainment** are most likely to be unable to keep their home warm
- **13 % of women and 11 % of men among single parents** have arrears on their utility bills
- **22 % of women and 19 % of men** among single parents live in poor quality dwellings. For **non-EU migrants** this is **21 %**.

Who makes the decisions about the course of the clean energy transition?

What do we know?

- Since 2019 a woman has been Commissioner for Energy
- **41 %** of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) members are **women** in 2022
- **43 % of senior ministers** with responsibilities for energy in EU Member States in 2022
- **29% of national parliamentary committees working on energy members** were women - slightly lower than women's overall representation in national parliaments.

Gender Statistics Database

Gender balance in the European Green Deal

In December 2019, the European Commission adopted the European Green Deal (1), a growth strategy with the overarching goal to make Europe climate neutral by 2050 and transform the EU into an equitable and prosperous society where no one is left behind. Alongside climate as the main focus, the EU action to deliver the European Green Deal includes energy, environment and oceans, agriculture, transport, industry, research and innovation, and finance and regional development (2).

In March 2020, the European Commission adopted the EU gender equality strategy (3) presenting policy objectives and initiatives to make significant progress towards a gender-equal Europe by 2025. One of its key objectives is to achieve gender balance in decision-making and in politics (with a representation of at least 40 % of each sex), which is a precondition for a properly functioning democracy and crucial for a successful leadership that can solve complex challenges.

This statistical note presents key findings on women's and men's representation in decision-making processes in the European Green Deal as a whole, and in the eight areas for action at the national and EU levels (4).

Gender-balanced representation in national governments for climate and energy portfolios, but agriculture and transport dominated by men

In November 2022, women accounted for 32 % of senior ministers in national governments (i.e. those with a seat on the cabinet). A breakdown by function (5) suggests that the allocation of portfolios is not gender neutral. Compared to their overall share of senior ministers (32 %), women are under-represented among ministers with basic (29 %) and economy (25 %) portfolios, fairly represented in infrastructure (31 %) portfolios and over-represented in sociocultural portfolios (43 %) (6).

In the eight areas of the European Green Deal there is variation within these broad categories of government function. In the infrastructure portfolio, some Green Deal areas have a better gender balance than overall, with gender parity among senior ministers with responsibilities for **climate** (50 % women), and gender balance (at least 40 % of each sex) in the area of **energy** (43 % women). Women are also slightly better represented in the area of **environment and oceans** (35 % v 32 %). However, women are under-represented among ministers with responsibilities for **agriculture** (under Economy, 15 % women) and **transport** (under Infrastructure, 14 % women). Women accounted for more than a third of senior ministers dealing with **research and innovation** (36 %), the only Green Deal area categorised as a sociocultural portfolio.

(1) Commission communication – The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b82bd165-1c22-11ea-8c11-01aa75ed71a1_0002_02_000C_1a01mat-PDF.

(2) These eight areas have been identified based on the areas displayed in the European Green Deal landing page, https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en.

(3) Commission communication – A Union of equality: Gender equality strategy 2020-2025, COM(2020) 152 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>.

(4) All data used in this note are based on data collected and calculated by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Data reflect the situation in May 2023 for the European Parliament and the European Commission, November 2022 for national government ministers and September 2022 for the committees of national parliaments. Data are largely drawn from existing datasets produced by EIGE, complemented, where relevant, with additional direct data collection and external data sources. A methodological annex contains all the underlying data, lists of positions and organisations covered, along with accompanying information and detailed methodological notes on the approach followed for the disaggregation of microdata. The methodological annex is available upon request, please contact info@eige.europa.eu.

(5) Based on the BEIS typology, which includes four types of state functions: B – Basic (foreign and internal affairs, defence, justice, etc.), E – Economy (finance, trade, industry, agriculture, etc.), I – Infrastructure (transport, communication, environment, etc.) and SC – Sociocultural functions (social affairs, health, children, family, youth, elderly people, education, science, culture, labour, sports, etc.). This classification is used by EIGE in its Gender Statistics Database for data collection on women and men in decision-making, <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs>.

(6) EIGE Gender Statistics Database – National governments: ministers by seniority and function of government.

Increased representation of women in green transition studies and jobs needed

What do we know?

- Overall, women account for **24 %** of employees in the EU energy sector (2022)
- Energy transition a source of job creation and opportunity for a more inclusive workforce.
- Gender segregation, gender biases and pay disparities obstacles to greater representation of women, especially in management roles.
- In renewable energy, women represent **32 % of full-time employees globally** (2018 online survey by IRENA).



The way forward: a gender-equal clean energy transition

Steps

1. Following through on the implementation of the energy policies under the **European Green Deal**



2. Step up the efforts to make sure the clean energy transition that **works for everyone**



3. But already positive signs for the gender equality in energy

