

# HOW CAN HOUSEHOLDS HELP TACKLE

# THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CRISIS?



EUROPEAN  
CLIMATE  
PACT

#MyWorldOurPlanet  
#EUClimatePact

## Global Energy Crisis

- Prices for energy skyrocketing globally
- Europe depends on Russia for about **40%** of its natural gas needs and roughly **27%** of crude oil imports
- EU adopting a phased embargo of Russian oil
- Rising energy prices driving inflation and increasing cost of living

## Reasons for significant increase in global energy prices

- Post-Covid-19 recovery: increased demand after relaxation of restrictions and ramping up of economic activity (including greater consumption of gas in Asia)
- Combination of long, cold winter in early 2021 with long, hot summer in 2021: increased use of heating and cooling devices
- Increase of geopolitical tensions: war in Ukraine (Russia cut off its energy supplies to Poland, Bulgaria, Finland, Denmark, and the Netherlands)\*

## Key challenges for the EU



Ending reliance on  
Russian energy imports



Further boosting the  
up-take of renewables



Accelerating efforts  
on energy efficiency  
and energy savings

## Opportunities for the EU

In February 2022, EU energy ministers affirmed there is no immediate risk of shortages of gas or fuel, even in the event of disruption in the supply from Russia. Indeed, there are opportunities ahead:



Energy  
independence



Significant contribution  
to the fight against  
climate change



Cost savings



Boosting innovation and  
promoting the EU growth  
strategy, plus new jobs

## 10 steps to reduce your household energy use

Governments and the EU can do a lot to tackle the energy and climate crisis, but households also have a part to play. Households account for roughly 25% of final EU energy consumption

- Shut down or unplug electronic devices
- Let washed clothes air dry
- Wash full loads of laundry
- Wash dishes by hand and not under running water
- Open the fridge or oven door only when necessary
- Thaw frozen foods completely before cooking
- Put a lid on the pot while cooking
- Reduce paper waste by, e.g., less printing
- Turn off the lights when you leave the house
- Keep the curtains closed in summer to block the sun's heat

## 10 steps to improve your building's energy efficiency

- Measure energy consumption
- Ensure proper insulation
- Plug leaks in your building
- Choose appropriate ventilation systems
- Increase natural lighting
- Use energy-efficient light bulbs (e.g., LED lights)
- Install solar panels
- Regulate heating with thermostats
- Rely on a heat pump
- Convince your neighbours to follow your example

Do you want to get involved? Sign up to the European Climate Pact and pledge to take practical steps to help reduce carbon pollution on our planet:

<https://europa.eu/climate-pact/>

\*As of 2 June 2022

Sources: Council of the EU, European Commission, European Parliament, Euronews, Business Development Bank Canada, Drexel University, Wade Architectural Systems, Construction21

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