

3. Secure power supplies

Stay powered

With rising global challenges, access to secure energy is vital to ensure our lives stay powered. The larger the interconnected area is, **the less likely it is to experience outages and blackouts.** If a power-line breaks, energy from other places can quickly be rerouted to guarantee energy supply.



Be independent

The EU imports more than half of all the energy it uses, costing more than 200 billion euros a year. Some Member States are up to 97 percent dependent on imported energy*. Creating an interconnected grid allows European countries to support each other, **reducing the dependence on energy imported from outside the EU.**

Source: Eurostat, Energy dependency in the EU, February 2016

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Energy networks need updating to stay efficient and running smoothly.

Europeans consume nearly 1.1 billion tonnes of energy every year. This is mainly used to heat our homes, power our transport and produce everything we consume. While progress is being made in improving energy efficiency, modernisation of our networks is also important to achieving our goals. Exchanging energy between EU Member States maximises our energy's reliability and reduces our dependence on other countries. **The more self-sufficient we are, the cleaner, cheaper, and less dependent we will be.**



Energy Grid

Interconnections in Europe

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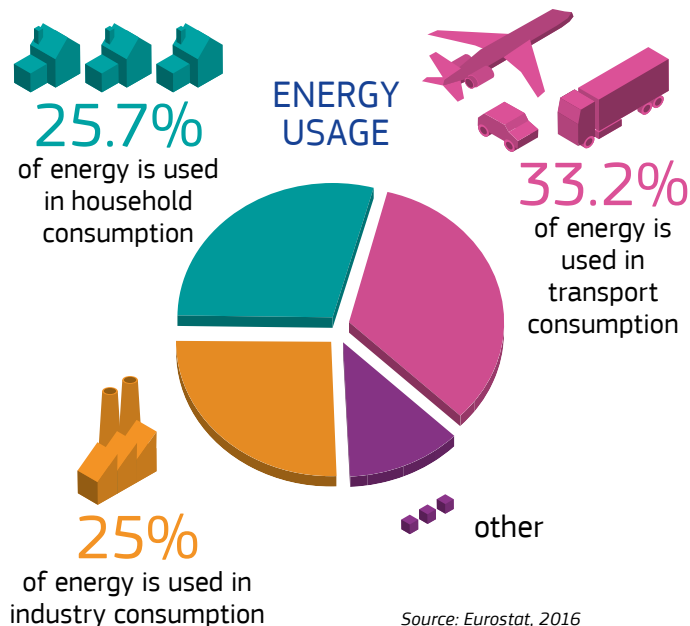
Energy

What's the issue?

The energy grid is needed to carry power from generation units and take it to our homes, our businesses, our hospitals and schools, and our public spaces. We use power for almost everything we do, and energy is central to our modern society and essential for all parts of our economy and daily life.

But to provide secure, sustainable and affordable energy to all Europeans for future decades, and ensure Europe's self-sufficiency and prosperity, we need a modern and interconnected energy network that connects right the way across Europe.

Our current energy grids have too few interconnections between countries, and such isolated networks cannot support each other and are less efficient. They are also more expensive. By linking up these networks and building a larger interconnected grid, we can provide energy that is more secure and affordable. We can also use more renewable power sources, developing sustainable energy.



Source: Eurostat, 2016

What can an interconnected grid do for me?

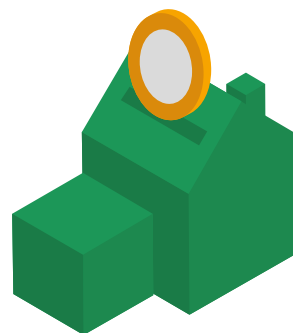
1. Lower energy bills

Wider choice, lower prices

By connecting energy networks across Europe consumers will get a greater choice of who to buy their energy from. Europeans on average spend

25% of their budget on housing, water, electricity and gas. Increased competition will help **drive prices down**, lowering the amount of money consumers spend on energy each month.

By connecting our homes to power generators in another country, we can reduce costs on power generation and thereby bring down the overall cost of energy for all of us. This ensures we have access to affordable energy when we need it.



2. Increased use of clean energy

Easier access to renewable energy

In some cases renewable energy comes from remote locations and is harder to reach.



By creating an interconnected and more modern grid, we can **bring renewable resources to our homes, businesses and towns** more easily. We can get wind power from the North Sea, solar energy from Southern Europe, or biomass from Eastern Europe to the places where they are needed. This aspect is going to become more important as time goes by, because renewable energy usage is expected to increase very substantially over the coming decades.

