

General facts

- Efficiency First is built on the common-sense approach that we should try to reach our decarbonisation goals by using as few resources as possible and considering cost-effectiveness with a broader perspective
- Efficiency First is at the core of the European Commission's strategy for smart sector integration and is a key principle of the Renovation Wave

Efficiency First is not a new name for energy efficiency

Efficiency First gives priority to demand-side resources whenever they are more cost effective from a societal perspective than investments in energy infrastructure in meeting policy objectives. It is a decision principle that is applied systematically at any level to energy-related investment planning and enabled by an 'equal opportunity' policy design.

Multiple benefits of Efficiency First:



Supply-side resources

Fossil fuel supply and plants

Renewables

Networks

Storage

Demand-side resources

Energy efficiency

Energy sufficiency

Demand flexibility & demand response

Efficiency First

EU policy background

- 2015** One of the five pillars of the Energy Union
- 2018** Cross-cutting principle in the CE4ALL package, proposed by EC in November 2016 and completed in 2019, including among others:
 - Governance Regulation of the Energy Union (EU, 2018/1999)
 - amending Energy Efficiency Directive (EU 2018/2002)
 - amending Renewable Energy Directive (EU 2018/2001)
 - Electricity Directive (EU, 2019/944) & Electricity Regulation (EU, 2019/943)
 - Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2018/844/EU)
- 2019** EU Green Deal (December 2019)
- 2020** EU Energy System Integration Strategy and the Renovation Wave
- 2021** Guidance on Efficiency First and revision of the EED/EPBD

Enablers

- Strong commitment of policymakers to implement Efficiency First in legislative decisions
- Proactive dissemination of good practices and case studies
- Coordination between all actors in the value chain
- Clear definition of Efficiency First and practical examples of how it can be implemented across sectors
- Communication & cultural change
- Break down regulatory barriers & value societal benefits

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