



EUROPEAN **COVENANT OF COMPANIES** FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Overview of Support Schemes
POLAND



INTRODUCTION

Context

The European Climate Law sets an ambitious emission reduction target of 55% by 2030 and the objective of becoming climate-neutral by 2050. Achieving these new 2030 energy and climate targets will require an ever more integrated approach to energy transition. It is thus essential to invite companies, in particular the less resourced SMEs, to join the energy and climate efforts of cities in order to develop mutually beneficial public-private partnerships at local level¹.

Aim of the Covenant of Companies

The European Covenant of Companies for Climate and Energy (EU CCCE) is a pilot initiative to encourage and support companies to step up their contribution to a clean energy transition, energy savings and related climate objectives as set out in the European Green Deal. The initiative aims to provide practical, step-by-step guidelines and technical assistance to European companies to help them take concrete actions resulting in the decarbonisation of their businesses. The initiative is currently in a pilot phase for two years where concepts will be developed and tested to establish a strong foundation for the Covenant of Companies.

Overview of support schemes

With these documents the EU CCCE provides an overview of the European and national support schemes for energy efficiency and renewable energy, national financing tools for clean energy research and innovation projects, as well as available capacity building support for companies.

For the first phase of the project the Consortium has opted to create detailed overviews by narrowing the study down to six focus countries: Croatia, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland. This document presents an overview of the financial support schemes, the financing tools for research and innovation and available capacity building materials (non-financial support), at the national and European level. It further offers insights in the national context within which the support is provided.

Disclaimer

This document gives an overview of the available support schemes as of July 2022. It serves to give a general overview of existing material at the national level at this date. Although the Consortium has put considerable effort in collating the material presented, it cannot guarantee that the overviews are fully comprehensive and up-to-date.

¹Tender specification setting up and operating the Secretariat for the EU Corporate Covenant Initiative, p.6.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Poland aims at a reduction of 7% in CO2 emissions in non-Emissions Trading System (ETS) sectors, and a 23% share of renewables in 2030.
- Regions of Poland have important responsibilities for energy policy and offer their own support, for clean energy projects and for business R&D&I.
- EU funds are an important source of funding for projects in clean energy.
- Support schemes for renewable energy and energy efficiency mainly take the form of loans. These are primarily managed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, as well as equivalent funds at the provincial level.
- R&D&I on clean energy is an important topic in the Polish National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP). The national and regional governments are aiming to provide funding. Support in the form of incubation schemes is also available through energy companies.
- Capacity building material for the clean energy transition of companies is made available through the Polish Energy Agency and the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development.



OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES

Selection of financial and non-financial support schemes available to Polish companies as of July 2022 for clean energy projects and R&D&I in clean energy.

Poland																
SUPPORT SCHEMES	GENERAL INFORMATION			ENERGY SOLUTIONS COVERED							COSTS COVERED				STATUS	
Selected Support Schemes	Scope	Category	Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)	Renewable energy utilisation	Energy Efficiency in processes and operations	Energy efficient buildings	Sustainable mobility	Circularity	Non-specific	Consultancy fee	Capital investments	Wages/labour costs	Other operational costs	Not Specified	Specific for SMEs	
Ministry of Climate and the Environment																
Operational Program Infrastructure & Environment - Energy	FIN	GRANT & LOAN		✓	✓						✓		✓			
National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management																
Adaptation Climate Change	FIN	LOAN							✓					✓		
New Energy (currently closed)	R&I	LOAN		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓			
Local Climate Compass (future call)	FIN	GRANT & LOAN							✓					✓		
Energy Plus	FIN	LOAN		✓	✓	✓								✓		
Portal EU funding																
Banks																
Thermomodernization and Renovation Fund (FTiR)		FUND				✓								✓		
PFR Green Hub	FIN	FUND							✓					✓		
EEA Grant																

LEGEND

Scope

FIN - Financial support scheme
R&I - Research & Innovation financing tool

Category

TAX - Tax benefit or incentive
GRANT - Grant

FUND - Fund
LOAN - Loan

GUAR- Guarantee

OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES

Capacity building material available to Polish companies as of July 2022 for their clean energy transition.

Poland										
CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL	TYPE		SCOPE							STATUS
Selected Capacity Building Material	Type of Support	General information and examples	Emissions inventory	Energy performance baseline	Monitoring & reporting	Energy audit	Clean energy plan or strategy	Implementation support	Networking	Specific for SMEs
Energy Consulting	EXP	✓					✓	✓		
Energy Audit KAPE	OTH					✓				
Energy Audit NAPE	OTH					✓				
Energy Expertise	EXP	✓					✓			
RES Strategic Consulting (Photovoltaics)	EXP							✓		✓
KAPE Monitoring	TOOL/EXP				✓					
Carbon footprint calculation	TOOL		✓		✓		✓			
EE Academy	TRAIN	✓							✓	
SME Tools from Polish government	PLAT	✓								✓
Green Technology Accelerator	EXP							✓		
PFR ESG Reporting Workshop	TRAIN		✓		✓					

LEGEND

Form of support

DOC - Guidance document
 EXP - Expert guidance / consultancy
 TRAIN - Course, training, workshop

PLAT - Platform or portal
 HD - Helpdesk

TOOL - Tool (web-based, template or other)
 OTH - Other

OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES AT EU-LEVEL

Selection of financial and non-financial support schemes available to European companies as of July 2022 for clean energy projects and R&D&I in clean energy.

EU																
MAIN LANDING PAGE		https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home														
Support schemes	GENERAL INFORMATION			ENERGY SOLUTIONS COVERED							COST COVERED					STATUS
Selected Support Schemes	Scope	Category	TRL levels	Renewable energy utilization	Energy efficient buildings	Energy storage	Sustainable mobility	Infrastructure and smart grids	Circularity	Non-specific	Consultancy fee	Capital investments	Wages/labour cost	Other operational costs	Description	Specific for SMEs
Horizon Europe - Relevant Missions																
Adaptation to Climate Change										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Operational costs are only covered when they can be attributed as direct costs. Indirect costs may sometimes fall under the grant, but will depend on the grant agreement for a specific project. See also: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A92%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XY2%22%7D%2C%59%2C722%2C0%5D	
Climate Neutral and Smart Cities										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.1	
Horizon Europe - Programme Innovative Europe																
EIC Pathfinder	R&I	FUND & GRANT	1 - 4		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
EIC Transition	R&I	FUND & GRANT	4 - 5/6	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
EIC Accelerator	R&I	FUND & GRANT	5/6 - 9		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	✓
CINEA																
CEF Energy: Energy Infrastructure: Projects of Common Interest	FIN	GRANT						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
CEF Energy: Energy Infrastructure: Cross-border renewable energy projects				✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
LIFE Clean Energy Transition	FIN	GRANT		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-cet_en.pdf	
LIFE Circular economy	FIN	GRANT							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-sap-env_en.pdf	
LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	FIN	GRANT		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-sap-clima_en.pdf	
Innovation Fund	R&I	GRANT		✓		✓		✓			✓				https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/IF_flyer-2021%20.pdf	
EIF and EIB																
Invest EU	FIN/R&I	FUND		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						The financing will typically take place through financial intermediaries that take equity participations, convertible loans and other equity-type financing. These intermediaries would typically be independent commercially-run fund managers that select companies with adequate return prospects, driven by a commercial logic when selecting companies in which to invest or provide other forms of financing. The InvestEU intervention will done on commercial terms and crowd in private investors.	✓

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OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES AT EU-LEVEL

Capacity building material available to European companies as of July 2022 for their clean energy transition

EU										
CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL	TYPE		SCOPE							STATUS
Selected Capacity Building Material	Type of support	General information and examples	Emissions inventory	Energy performance baseline	Monitoring & reporting	Energy audit	Clean energy plan or strategy	Implementation support	Networking	Specific for SMEs
LIFE close-to-market projects	PLAT	✓					✓		✓	
EIC Business Acceleration Services	PLAT	✓			✓				✓	
Invest EU - Advisory hub	EXP						✓	✓	✓	
Innovation Fund	EXP						✓	✓	✓	

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NATIONAL SUPPORT SCHEMES FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

- There is a high reliance on European funds for financing support and for achieving the climate goals.
 - Certain national support schemes and capacity building material is available. However, the focus on SMEs takes place at a regional and local level, more than at a national level – regional contact points and governance provide funding and capacity building material too.
 - The provinces have a lot of autonomy which means the national level has less knowledge on what happens at the regional level.
 - At national level there appears to be some coordination when it comes to platforms concerning European support schemes. Otherwise, ministries work independently. National support schemes are provided by the independent ministries and their agencies. For instance, even within the ministry of climate and environment there is not one central page, but a separate page for funding by the national fund. And the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP) is a completely separate entity.
-

Renewable energy utilisation

The NECP has set a target of 23% share of renewable energy sources (RES) in gross final energy consumption. In the **Energy Policy of Poland until 2040** (PEP2040) the Polish government sets out specific objectives for electricity generation. Two specific objectives relevant to renewable electricity generation are:

- Optimal use of own energy resources.
- Development of renewable energy sources.

As part of the optimal use of own resources, the Polish government sets out to focus efforts on RES generation using waste biomass. Poland also aims to invest in the development of wind and solar energy.

The Polish government has adopted a bottom-up approach to stimulate the development of regions, local economies, and the labour market. For instance, the Act on Renewable Energy Sources proposes solutions to stimulate RES.

The PEP2040 states that support schemes will be prioritised for solutions ensuring the maximum availability, and relatively lower costs of energy production. Support for RES is to be adapted to market needs and will also prioritise hybrid RES technologies and storage as well as meet the local energy needs. Support mentioned under the PEP2040 which can be useful for companies are grants, loans, and aid mechanisms targeted at specific technologies.

At the national level, support schemes for RES are available in the form of loans. At the time of writing, there are two known loans from the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. The **New Energy** loan is aimed at innovative technologies, but is temporarily closed, as it is a periodic call. As depicted in the PEP2040 and the NECP, other forms of support schemes for RES should be consulted at the regional and local levels.

NATIONAL SUPPORT SCHEMES FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS Continued.

Energy efficiency in buildings and industry

The Polish government has set a target of a 23% increase in energy efficiency by 2030. EU funding is an important source of financing for Poland to reach these targets, as stipulated under the NECP. Similarly to the RES goals, the Polish government highlights 'the importance of individual bottom-up actions that make up the participatory character of the energy transition.'¹

Support for companies at the national level exists in the form of loans and grants. No specific support could be found for companies investing in energy efficiency. The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, however, manages loans for enterprises to reduce their negative impact on the environment: **Energy Plus**. Companies investing in energy efficiency in buildings or production are also eligible to apply. Other important portals for support are the Provincial Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management and EU Funds.

Concerning buildings, the PEP2040 objective on renewable energy generation also pays special attention to sources and technologies that contribute to heating and cooling of buildings. The NECP states that the share of RES in district heating and cooling is expected to increase by about 1.1% on average per year in 2020-2030.² The **National Housing Plan** sets the long-term renovation targets for the national housing stock for residential buildings. This plan pays particular attention to energy poverty and rental flats, so is not applicable to companies.

White certificates in Poland are also introduced to stimulate savings in final energy consumption. Such mechanisms oblige companies to implement projects that improve their energy efficiency or gives them the option to purchase energy efficiency certificates.

In addition to funding from the ministries and the EU, other international funding is available. The **EEA grants** for instance, offer funding under the cooperation agreements between Poland and Iceland, Liechtenstein & Norway. There are currently no open calls for clean energy. However, the Polish government updates calls on the **national website** dedicated to these grants.

Concerning energy efficiency, attention is also given to capacity building material such the **Green Technology Accelerator** (see also paragraph on capacity building below)

Sustainable mobility

Poland has a European obligation to achieve a 14% share of renewable energy in transport by 2030, including at least 3.5% coming from advanced (non-food) biofuels.³ The development of electromobility and alternative fuels in transport, such as hydrogen, is one of the specific objectives under the PEP2040. The "Strategy for Responsible Development," and the "Electromobility Development Plan 'Energy for the Future'" set out the steps for electromobility in Poland.

At the national level, the National Fund for Environmental Protections and Water Management provides a grant under the New Energies programme. Although not specifically for mobility, enterprises investing in innovative technologies for electromobility or infrastructure could apply. This grant opens through periodic calls for proposals.

¹Ministry of Climate and Environment, Energy Policy of Poland Until 2040 (PEP2040), Warsaw 2021, p.73.

²The National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030, Warsaw 2019, p.19.

³Ministry of Climate and Environment, Energy Policy of Poland Until 2040 (PEP2040), Warsaw 2021, p.62.

NATIONAL FINANCING TOOLS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The Polish government provides limited financing tools for research, development and innovation (R&D&I). Financing focused on innovation was available in 2021 under the **New Energy** programme, but it is not clear whether there will be new calls.

Incubation schemes

As part of the 'Research, Innovation and Competitiveness' dimension of the NECP State budget resources are used in combination with European funds and energy companies' own funds. The government and energy companies are starting to offer incubation schemes for start-ups. Polish energy companies have established their own acceleration centres for newly established companies (incubators) and joint venture companies. The goal of the Polish government and energy companies is to accelerate new projects and stimulate R&D&I in the energy sector.

NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL

In addition to financial support, there is also limited capacity building materials available for companies. Capacity building is primarily available through the national energy agency (KAPE). In addition, there are some tools provided through the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (**PARP**) that also cover energy related topics. Private instances such as the NAPE also provide tools such as training for energy audits. Additionally, the **GreenEvo – Green Technology Accelerator** programme of the Ministry of Climate and Environment aims to support Polish environmental technologies. The programme selects projects from different technological areas, including energy saving and RES, and provides direct support to enable those companies to develop their activities.

Additional international and European capacity building material can be found in the various public guides and information sheets published on the **CCCE website**.

MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SUPPORT SCHEMES

Title	Description page	Link
Calls from Ministries	The ministries each have their own page where companies can access support and tenders. The main ministries that companies can consult for clean energy projects are:	
	Ministry of Climate and the Environment	https://www.gov.pl/web/klimat/programy-i-projekty
	The Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy	https://www.gov.pl/web/fundusze-regiony
National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management	The fund offers loans, subsidies, and other forms of co-financing for local governments, companies, public entities, social organisations, and natural persons. The Fund falls under the Ministry of Climate and the Environment.	https://www.gov.pl/web/nfosigw/srodki-krajowe
KAPE	KAPE is the national energy conservation agency. KAPE executes public activities and relies on external funding for its activities. KAPE provides capacity building material for companies and is currently working on two projects for SMEs related to the energy sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEAP4SME • DEESME 	https://www.gov.pl/web/klimat/programy-i-projekty
European Funds	EU funding is an important source of financing for projects in Poland. The Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy has created a portal with updated tenders for different sectors and types of projects funded by the EU	https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka/
PARP	PARP falls under the Ministry of Development and Technology. PARP helps businesses in Poland with a focus on SMEs. PARP implements national and international programmes financed through the EU. PARP offers funds and capacity building material for companies. Some of the activities of PARP concentrate on research activities and investments in innovation. Although there are no specific activities focusing on climate or energy, certain support schemes and capacity building materials cover this topic	https://www.parp.gov.pl/
EEA Grant	The EEA and Norway Grants are funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway. The goal of the grant is to provide funding to 15 Beneficiary States in Europe to reduce social and economic disparities as well as strengthen bilateral relations. Poland is a recipient for funding under the cooperation agreements between Poland and Iceland, Liechtenstein & Norway. Regular calls are posted on the national website of the EEA grants. Relevant topics include 'Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness' and 'Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy'	https://eeagrants.org/countries/poland

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

The **National Energy and Climate Plan** (NECP) in Poland has been written in line with the country's horizontal development strategy. For instance, under the Energy Efficiency Act companies are obliged to implement projects that increase their energy efficiency. This includes the purchase of **white certificates**, and for large companies, the obligation to carry out an energy audit.

Part of the horizontal development strategy and the NECP is the **Energy Policy of Poland until 2040 (PEP2040)**. This was adopted by the Polish government in 2021 and sets out the specific objectives to achieve the climate goals in Poland. The PEP2040 sets out three pillars on which the specific objectives are based:

- Pillar 1: Just transition.
- Pillar 2: Zero-emission energy system.
- Pillar 3: Good air quality

National institutions

On the national level different ministries provide support schemes to companies. European institutions also serve as an important source of funding in Poland. **The Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy** has created a **portal** for companies and individuals searching for support. The portal gives an overview of all European funding made available at the national level. This covers a range of themes, including support for clean energy projects. There is a specific page dedicated to support made available to companies, and more specifically, SMEs. In addition, the **Central Information Point** helps parties, including SMEs, to successfully apply for funding.

The main ministry dealing with energy is the **Ministry of Climate and Environment**. Under the ministry the **National Fund for Environmental Protections and Water Management (the Fund)** serves as the main link for funding. Furthermore, the Fund serves as the National Coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors. The Fund is also the main shareholder of the **national energy agency KAPE**.

Additionally, the **Ministry of Development and Technology** is in charge of activities surrounding the economy, construction, planning and spatial development and housing. Under this ministry the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (**PARP**) acts as the centre for SME development. The PARP provides financing support for SMEs as well as capacity building material.

Finally, there is also support available through the **private sector**. For instance, the NAPE provides capacity building material such as training for energy audits. **NAPE** is a commercial energy enterprise to assist companies in the energy transition and collaborates with KAPE in its activities.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND MAIN STAKEHOLDERS Continued.

Regional Institutions

It is difficult to give a full overview of support schemes and capacity building material available for all of Poland. Energy policy is dictated at the national level but gives a lot of autonomy to the regional and local level for the implementation.

Poland is divided into 16 provinces (voivodeships) that each establish their own operational plans. The provinces are in turn sub-divided in counties (powiaty) and municipalities (gminy). As a result, SMEs searching for support should start at the regional level. The ministry of Climate and Environment has a [website](#) with a list of the Provincial Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management. In addition to the national fund, there is a provincial fund per province. SMEs can additionally consult agencies and initiatives coordinated by regional Marshal's Offices (**Urząd Marszałkowski**). There is an agency per voivodeship. The Marshal's Offices additionally coordinate expenditures under regional development plans using EU funds. Marshal Office has a dedicated department for economic development that has an overview of what is being implemented in the region.

The **National Regional Development Strategy 2030 (NSRD)** identifies development challenges in Poland. The NSRD outlines the necessary rules for planning at the national, regional, and local level and focuses on:

- “Consistent and long-term support for vulnerable areas,
- developing entrepreneurship and innovativeness based on the existing advantages,
- activity and cooperation as important factors of gminas'/regions' success.”

Two of the main challenges highlighted in the NSRD are adapting to climate change and increasing the productivity and innovativeness of regional economies. Under both challenges the need for (financial) support to local entrepreneurs is addressed. As a result, the NSRD has as one of its objectives the support of entrepreneurship at the regional and local level, by financial means and through education.

Regional operational programmes are set up per region and published on the website of the European Commission. The latest accessible programmes are available for the **years 2014-2020**, as the programmes for 2021-2027 are currently being set up. The NSRD also refers to these programmes as implementation instruments for the strategy for 2030.

Finally, each regional office has a representative in the EU.



INTERVIEW SOURCES

- Polish Craft Association (Związek Rzemiosła Polskiego – ZRP)
 - National Energy Conservation Agency (Narodowa Agencja Poszanowania Energii S.A – NAPE)
 - Polish National Energy Conservation Agency (Krajowa Agencja Poszanowania Energii S.A. – KAPE)
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[https://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/
#CovenantOfCompanies](https://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/#CovenantOfCompanies)

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