

To the attention of:

- EU national energy/environment ministries
- Member States representatives of the Ecodesign Consultation Forum

25 April 2023

**Subject: Phase out of 'stand-alone' fossil fuel boilers via EU product policy: A chance to make renewable heating the norm, decrease Europe's energy dependence, and mitigate energy crises**

On 27 April, the European Commission will host a Consultation Forum on the Ecodesign regulations for space and water heaters. They will discuss the proposal to phase out 'stand-alone' (non-hybrid) fossil fuel boilers from September 2029.

The latest [EU Save Energy Plan](#) includes the important provision to decarbonise residential heating in response to Russia's war in Ukraine, the main cause of the [current energy crisis](#). Putting an end to the sale of 'stand-alone' fossil fuel boilers via ecodesign is of utmost importance to Europe's energy security. It will also help lower the energy bills for consumers.

However, 2029 is not fast enough. To stay within reach of Europe's climate neutrality targets, fossil fuel boilers must be phased out by 2027. We need your support to speed up this transition.

### **Build on the success of ecodesign**

As disclosed in the working documents, **raising the energy efficiency threshold of space and water heaters up to 115%**, would push the least efficient products off the market without requiring households to replace their boilers immediately - only in case of replacement or new installations.

Ecodesign regulations have been one of the [most successful measures](#) to secure energy savings and emission reductions for heating appliances to date. They have proven very effective in delivering benefits to consumers, while helping to achieve EU energy and climate targets. It is time to build on this success. [Households](#) are the second largest user of gas. A timely fossil fuel phase-out through ecodesign stands to unlock a massive reduction in gas consumption: 320 TWh in residential heating, and total GHG savings of 75 Mt CO<sub>2,eq</sub> by 2030.

### **Match the ambitions of Member States**

The European Parliament's position on the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) demonstrated growing momentum in favour of promoting heating decarbonisation in EU buildings. In addition to boosting building renovation rates, Member States must cease to provide any financial incentives for the installation of boilers using fossil fuels from 1 January 2024 at the latest. They must also completely phase out fossil fuel-based heating appliances for all buildings

by 2035. [Eight EU Member States](#) have already taken steps to anticipate such a phase-out. The EU should align with these ambitious national efforts.

National governments are set to play an important role in this transition, but they are not alone. Heating appliance manufacturers and citizen-led energy communities are taking important steps, too. [Many are building new production facilities](#) and making significant investments to accommodate the sharply growing demand for heat pumps, and nearly [90% of heating manufacturers](#) agree to support a legal ban on sales of fossil fuel-based appliances.

The EU working together to end the sales of new gas and oil boilers would be transformative. By transitioning to renewable energy to heat Europe's homes, the EU can create jobs, decrease our energy dependency from extra-EU fossil sources, support European companies and cooperatives to scale up low carbon solutions, and set standards that the rest of the world could follow.

### **Meet Europe's climate objectives**

The attached [factsheet](#) outlines **the benefits of raising the energy efficiency thresholds**. It would set a clear precedent of support for a mature renewable-based solution to the EU's energy demands in the built environment. Such technologies - including electric heat pumps, solar (thermal and PV) and geothermal energies and renewable-based and efficient district heating - have consistently proven to be more cost-effective in the long run, emission-free, climate-friendly, and healthier for indoor air quality. They also significantly contribute to national energy and climate targets.

**Technology is ready to take off, we now need political will.** Waiting until the end of 2029 means wasting precious years to achieve EU climate objectives. More delays would also have a tangible impact on consumers, who, with the right decisions in place, [could save 40 billion euros on their energy bills](#) between 2020 and 2030.

**We urge you to support a phase out of 'stand-alone' fossil fuel boilers by 2027.**

Yours sincerely,

- Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS)
- Bond Beter Leef Milieu (BBL)
- Bellona
- CAN
- Canopea
- E3G
- Ecodes
- Euro Heat and Power
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- Friends of the Earth Ireland
- Global Witness
- Global 2000
- Green Transition Denmark
- GREENoneTEC Solarindustrie
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