

TOWARDS A DECARBONISED EUROPE:

Increasing energy efficiency in SMEs for clean transition

Dr Pádraig Lyons, 19th October 2021, 9:50

Session #4

Developing Energy Efficiency Policy for SMEs

Policies related with Energy Efficiency in Europe focused on industry and SMEs and ways to improve them

EU wide and Irish policies on SME Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Directive 2012

- Amended in 2018 as part of Clean energy for all European Package
- 32.5% energy efficiency target by 2030 for EU
- Article 8: Energy Audits and Energy Management System

Energy Performance of Building Directive 2010

- Highly efficient and decarbonised building stock in EU by 2050
- Amended in 2018
- All new buildings must be NZEB from 31 December 2020

National Climate Action Plan

- Previously National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
- For the period from 2021-2030
- 10 year integrated plan to achieve 2030 target

Key Messages

Despite these policies, most SMEs have not had an energy audit in the last 5 years, do not have an energy manager or energy policy, and have implemented only “easy” energy

Policy to support energy efficiency in SMEs must be strengthened

Gap Analysis



EU Level

- No quantitative targets for SMEs
- No mandatory obligations for SMEs
- 2020 target likely to be missed

National Level

- Varied transposition of EED Article 8
- Lack of financial support for SMEs
- Support limited to information

Company Level

- Lack of resource (time, money, knowledge)
- Poor understanding of multiple benefits of EE
- Competing business priorities

Each project is developing a different solution...

SPEEDIER

- **Outsource energy management** & self-finance implementation through ring-fencing and re-investing

SMEmpower

- Create training programs that **empower SMEs to implement EE** by improve their knowledge and skills

E2Driver

- **Customize innovative training approaches** to meet the needs of a specific sector

Innoveas

- **Work with industry associations** to reach SMEs, build their internal capacity and enhance energy culture

DEESME

- Enabling companies to manage the energy transition by **taking profit of multiple benefits** and energy management approaches







Triple-A

- Standardised Triple-A **Tools, Database** and **Benchmarks** to assess EE investments, setting the ground for building **investors'** and **project developers'** confidence.

ICCEE

- **Work with industry associations** to reach SMEs, build their internal capacity and enhance energy culture, creating free tools for them (LCA, LCC, etc), elearning and market platforms, etc.

To tackle different barriers

Which barriers do the projects tackle?	 SPEEDIER	 SME mPower Efficiency	e2DRIVER	 innoveas	 DEESME National schemes for energy efficiency in SMEs	 TRIPLE-A	 ICCEE Improving Cold Chain Energy Efficiency in food and beverage sector
Lack of time	✓	✓			✓		✓
Lack of finance	✓				✓	✓	
Poor internal knowledge & skills		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Poor understanding of multiple benefits of EE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Competing business priorities	✓						
Poor energy culture		✓	✓	✓			✓
Lack of suitable training on EE		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No external support for EE implementation	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Only 'easy' EE measures are implemented	✓						

Key messages

No single approach will remove all the barriers to SMEs undertaking energy audits and implementing energy efficiency measures

A combination of approaches and solutions are required

Recommendations for policy makers

01

Consider mandatory energy audits for SMEs to create a demand driven-market for both internal capacity building and external energy auditors

02

Encourage a range of support mechanisms to meet different needs. Information alone is not enough, SMEs need support through the implementation phase too.

03

Promote the multiple benefits of energy efficiency. Thermal comfort, staff health, building value, reduced maintenance and brand image also have value for SMEs

04

Develop (and promote) suitable financial mechanisms for SMEs. Joined up tax incentives, grants, revolving funds and energy tariff structures could incentivise investment

05

Training is required at all levels including SME staff, energy experts, finance providers, industry associations.



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