



Priority 2. Energy transition

Specific Objective 2.2 - **Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein**

NB: This factsheet presents **a summary** of Specific Objective (SO) 2.2 of the Interreg North-West Europe Programme (NWE IP). The comprehensive description of SO 2.2, which contains detailed explanations and further examples, **should be consulted for a full understanding of the SO in Chapter 2.1 of the NWE IP.**

Territorial challenges and opportunities

The North-West Europe (NWE) region is one of the highest energy-consuming regions in the EU. While most countries in the Programme area are on track to achieve EU targets for deployment of Renewable Energy Sources (RES), there is an unexploited potential to improve the mix and consumption of renewable energy. Barriers must be broken down through cooperation projects to maximise this potential mix to contribute to climate change mitigation. The Programme seeks to contribute to the EU's target of covering 32% of its energy needs with renewable energy by 2030. This can be achieved through increasing the share of renewable energy sources in the NWE territory's mix, including wind and solar power, bioenergy, biomass, hydropower, geothermal, heat, and fuel cell hydrogen technology.

Objectives

Within this Specific Objective, the Programme aims to support projects that:

- Address barriers to improve the renewable energy production and consumption mix of the NWE region.
- Maximise their contribution to climate change mitigation, by implementing projects on different technologies (e.g., wind and solar power, bioenergy - biogas and bio-LPG - and use of biomass, hydropower, geothermal/heat-pump, as well as fuel cell/hydrogen technologies).

Target groups

- **Local/regional/national authorities, EGTCs, governmental agencies, public equivalent organisations** (including agencies or para-public organisations) with responsibilities relating to energy and working on renewable energy production.
- **Universities, public research centres, private research units, schools and higher education, training centres** who are innovation drivers and can provide scientific insight and evidence to regional challenges.

North-West Europe

- **SMEs and business support organisations** who are economic drivers in the region with high potential for innovation. They can support the development of solutions and help drive behavioural change.
- **Sectoral associations, NGOs, lobby organisations, citizens groups**, acting as multipliers to their networks. They can gather data to influence policies and promote educational initiatives to raise awareness in this field.

Activities

Projects should implement a combination of activities, such as:

- **Elaboration and implementation of joint strategies and/or action plans**, for example, to create and/or expand value-chains in the field of Renewable Energy Sources to diversify the renewable energy supply and maximize penetration of Renewable Energy Sources.
- **Pilot actions for testing tools and/or solutions**, for example, scalable and replicable solutions to facilitate the uptake of renewable energy in different economic sectors (e.g., heating and cooling, transport/mobility, dwelling, farming and agri-food, etc.).
- **Capacity building and awareness raising activities**, for example, public awareness and acceptance campaigns, training schemes for workers and businesses in different key economic sectors, in rural, urban, and intermediate areas, and boosting energy entrepreneurship to harness compatible renewable energy resources locally available.

Results

The **combination of these activities** may lead to results such as:

- Key principles of smart and just energy transition are embedded into territorial strategies and local initiatives, specifically focusing on promoting the production and use of energy from RES.
- Innovative technologies, solutions, products, and services increase the use and production of energy from RES. These are taken up and ensure the coherence between proposed approaches and local and/or regional needs.
- Citizens, consumers, local communities, and businesses are better empowered and engaged in the green energy transition.

Outputs and results of projects must contribute to the NWE Programme indicator framework (see the NWE IP).