

Triple-A Factsheet

Energy Efficiency Measures &
Funding Schemes in Italy



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES & FUNDING SCHEMES IN ITALY

Compared to some of the other Triple-A case study countries' governments, the Italian government is only recently starting to pay more attention to renewable energy and energy efficiency. With the launch of the Next Generation EU (NGEU) program in 2020, the EU provided a huge number of financial resources to accelerate the growth, channeling significant resources to countries such as Italy which, although characterized by levels of GDP in line with the EU average, have recently suffered from low economic growth and high unemployment¹.

Energy Efficiency goals for 2030 and 2050

The Italian document related to the energy and climate transition is the Piano nazionale integrato per l'energia e il clima per gli anni 2021-2030 (PNIEC). Regarding the EE goals for 2030, there are several objectives to be achieved, all deriving from European legislation. The first consists in the reduction by 2030 of the European primary energy requirements by 32.5%, calculated with respect to the projections drawn up by the EC in 2007 with the PRIMES scenario. It is expected that Italy will achieve a reduction of 43%, calculated in the same way². The electrification of the primary energy system, in the perspective of total decarbonisation by 2050, will have to exceed 50%. It will therefore be necessary to aim for an acceleration of the development of the electricity carrier compared to the 22% share reached in 2018 (it was 17% in 1990) thanks to a marked growth in the transport sector and buildings, with a greater diffusion of heat pumps.

Policy framework, incentives & schemes

National guidelines for the energy certification of buildings

The decree for the adaptation of the national guidelines for the energy certification of buildings describes the Guidelines and the means of connection between the State and the Regions for the preparation of Energy Performance Certificates (APE) and introduces the constraint for the Regions and Provinces to establish control plans and procedures³.

White Certificates

Also known as "Energy Efficiency Certificates", White Certificates⁴ are negotiable securities that certify the achievement of energy savings in the final uses of energy through interventions and projects to increase EE. They are the main incentive mechanism for EE in the industrial sector, network infrastructures, services and transport, but also concern interventions carried out in the civil sector and behavioural measures.

Conto Termico

¹ <https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf>

² <https://temi.camera.it/leg18/post/la-proposta-italiana-di-piano-nazionale-per-l-energia-e-il-clima.html>

³ https://www.mise.gov.it/images/stories/normativa/DM_Linee_guida_APE.pdf

⁴ <https://www.gse.it/servizi-per-te/efficienza-energetica/certificati-bianchi>

The Conto Termico⁵ encourages interventions to increase EE and the production of thermal energy from renewable sources for small plants. The beneficiaries are mainly public administrations, but also companies and individuals, who will be able to access funds for 900 million euros per year, of which 200 for public administrations.

Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)

Loans at a subsidised rate of 200 million euros were announced under the Kyoto fund for the energy upgrading of school buildings, sports facilities, and publicly owned health facilities. The implementing decree of the new Kyoto fund, published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale on Saturday 24th April 2021, provides for loans at an interest rate of 0.25% for a maximum duration of the loan of twenty years.

The projects presented must ensure an improvement in the building's EE parameter of at least two energy classes. EE interventions such as the replacement of systems, the installation of heat pumps, the replacement of windows, the construction of the thermal coat, as well as water saving, and efficiency measures are eligible for financing.

Energy Efficiency National Fund

Together with reforms, Italy has introduced numerous financial incentives aimed at increasing the attractiveness of the country as a Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) destination, encouraging R&D operations, supporting industrial crisis areas, and fostering the growth of new innovative enterprises. To increase the EE the Energy efficiency National Fund has been adopted⁶. The fund has a budget of € 310 MLN and supports EE investments on buildings, plants, and production processes (district heating and cooling networks, cogeneration and trigeneration plants).

Superbonus

The Superbonus⁷ is the tax relief governed by Article 119 of Law Decree no. 34/2020 (Relaunch decree), which consists of a 110% deduction of the expenses incurred starting from 1 July 2020 for the implementation of specific interventions aimed at EE and static consolidation or the reduction of the seismic risk of buildings. The facilitated interventions also include the installation of photovoltaic systems and infrastructures for charging electric vehicles in buildings.

Table 1: Policy frameworks, incentives, and schemes relation to Triple-A sectors

Policy frameworks, incentives & schemes	Triple-A sectors
<i>National guidelines for the energy certification of buildings</i>	Buildings
<i>White Certificates</i>	Industry, Outdoor Lightning
<i>Conto Termico</i>	Industry
<i>Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)</i>	Buildings, Industry, Transportation, District Energy Networks, Outdoor Lightning,
<i>Energy Efficiency National Fund</i>	Buildings, Industry
<i>Superbonus</i>	Buildings

⁵ <https://www.gse.it/servizi-per-te/efficienza-energetica/conto-termico>

⁶ <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/energia/efficienza-energetica/fondo-nazionale-efficienza-energetica>

⁷ <https://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/portale/web/guest/superbonus-110%2>

TRIPLE-A IN BRIEF

Triple-A -Enhancing at an Early Stage the Investment Value Chain of Energy Efficiency Projects - is an EU-funded research project under the Horizon 2020 programme, aiming to assist financial institutions increase their deployment of capital in energy efficiency, making investments more transparent.

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Conclusions

To stay in line with European objectives towards 2030 and 2050 for EE and decarbonisation, Italy has set up different measures in terms of policy frameworks, incentives, and schemes in different sectors.

The Italian plan proposes projects in the European flagship areas. The most comprehensive form of financing provided by Italy is the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR). Italy has also provided other policy framework, incentives and schemes which directly relate to the Triple-A sectors, such as the White Certificates, the Conto Termico, the Energy Efficiency National Fund and finally the Superbonus, which consists of a 110% deduction of the expenses incurred starting from 1 July 2020 for the implementation of specific interventions aimed at EE and static consolidation or the reduction of the seismic risk of buildings. All the aforementioned measures will contribute to favor a green and just transition focus on integrated long-term goals and strategies for a more resilient and fairer economy.



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Triple-A

Enhancing at an Early Stage the Investment Value Chain of Energy Efficiency Projects