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# 1. EU News

## Green Deal – EU Commission presented strategy for a climate-neutral future

The goal of "climate neutrality" by 2050 is to be enshrined in law in the European Union. The EU Commission has concreted the plans, strategies and implementation in a framework. Further information you can get on the homepage of the European Commission:

The European Green Deal and the Just Transition Mechanism

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_20\\_24](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_24))

Factsheets:

- Investing in a climate-neutral and circular economy  
[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs\\_20\\_40](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_40)
- The Just Transition Mechanism  
[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs\\_20\\_39](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_39)
- EU-funded projects to green the economy  
[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs\\_20\\_37](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_37)

## EUROSOLAR – The European Solar Prize 2020

Applications for this prize are open for individuals, communities, corporate entities and communal enterprises. Projects in the field of renewable energies are awarded. On the following homepage you can get detailed information:

<https://www.eurosolar.de/en/index.php/events/european-solar-prize-eurosolar>

## EIT InnoEnergy

European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is an independent institution which was set up by the EU in Budapest in 2008 to enhance and spur innovation and entrepreneurship across the EU. The EIT is operating in so called "Innovation Communities" each of which is focusing on one specific global challenge. There are currently eight Communities (<https://eit.europa.eu/our-communities/eit-innovation-communities>). One of those is EIT InnoEnergy aiming at accelerating sustainable energy innovations in Europe. It supports innovators, start-ups and scale-ups, students and learners. Furthermore it strives to match innovative and sustainable products/services/solutions with those looking for them. One key issue for EIT's support is the commercialization of new solutions and business that can be created around them.

Start-ups and scale-ups are supported through explicit financing options and support measures alongside their life cycles ("Highway" and "Boostway"). Support is offered e. g. in terms of assessments of teams, skills and project realization, networking with partners in R&D and industry, commercialization issues, office space and training measures. Information on funding sources, access to finance (public money, programs, business angels etc.) is provided.

See the specifics here: <https://bc.innoenergy.com/>

Applications for full-scale/grown-up projects are open for international consortia of between three and seven European organizations (industry and research – the latter is not necessary but advisable). There are no limits as to the size of the organizations. Projects with non-European partners might be eligible as well, depending on the technology and individual project.

EIT operates by offering direct financing solutions – at a larger and investment scale and in terms of acceleration programs. Projects looking for finance should have reached at least TRL 4. Direct investment by EIT ranges from 100k up to €4-5m (between 20 to 80 per cent of the project budget) and is granted as repayable grants. Projects are expected to last two to three

years and should hit the market within five years – this being the rough deadline where projects should start to bring in a Return-On-Investment (ROI).

For more details please consult EIT InnoEnergy's webpage: [www.innoenergy.com](http://www.innoenergy.com)

## 2. Selected National Funding Opportunities

Below are presenting selected current funding opportunities for renewable energies, energy efficiency, environment and circular economy in countries represented by members of our sector group. In case interesting funding options arise other countries might be added. The countries are listed in alphabetical order.

### Belgium

There are incentives for companies investing in energy efficient technologies and renewable energy. The state allows tax rebates. Small and medium sized companies get a discount in the amount of 20.0 %. The tax rebates for larger enterprises are 13.5 %.

Besides there are some national, regional and funding opportunities . Further information you find on the homepages of

- Flemish Energy Agency  
<https://www.energiesparen.be/>
- Walloon Operational General Directorate for Spatial Planning, Housing, Regional Heritage and Energy  
<https://energie.wallonie.be/fr/index.html?IDC=6018>
- Brussels Institute for Environmental Management (IGBE)  
<https://environnement.brussels/>

### Bulgaria

#### Financial instruments co-financed by the EU

The Bulgarian ministry of finance is the owner of the “Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria” (FMFIB). The institution/fund manages the financial instruments in the operational Programmes co-financed from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in the 2014-2020 programming period. The homepage of the FMFIB describes available financial instruments for companies

<https://www.fmfib.bg/en/page/9-financial-instruments>

#### Support for SMEs regarding to the COVID19-pandemic

Bulgarian SMEs are provided with grants to help cope the negative effects of the Covid19-pandemic:

<https://eumis2020.government.bg/en/s/Procedure/Info/dbf63b01-0326-4cd5-96cf-af07cbd57cc1>

#### Energy Efficiency and Renewable Fund

The Bulgarian and Austrian governments provide a fund for companies, which implement energy-efficient measures. Also renewable energy projects are supported. The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (FEEVI) offers companies loans at low interest rates, loan guarantees, portfolio guarantees and advice on the implementation of the projects. Companies can submit applications directly to the FEEVI.

<https://www.bqeef.com/en> (Energy Efficiency and renewable Energy Fund – FEEVI)

## Denmark

In the context of the new energy agreement by the state of Denmark (2018) the government agreed upon the construction of three new offshore windfarms. Furthermore the government decided on several other funding and support measures, as there are specific procurement measures for the provision of ecological electricity (bio, solar, wind), grants for companies investing in measures for energy savings, reductions on taxation of electricity and funding for energy and climate research. The institution responsible for the Danish energy transition is "House of Energy".

<https://house-of-energy.dk/en>

## Finland

Grants for investment and research projects in renewable energies

Finland offers a special type of state aid for renewable energy projects in the country. Some areas in which companies or projects can apply for: new technologies and their commercial distribution, transition of classic energy systems towards a low carbon energy system

<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/energy-aid/>

## France

- The Franco-German Office for the energy turnaround shows the different marketing possibilities of biogas in both countries. In France there are also market opportunities for companies for new biogas plants

<https://energie-fr-de.eu/de/bioenergien/nachrichten/leser/memo-zu-biogas-in-deutschland-und-frankreich-ein-vergleich.html>

## Germany

### **New funding opportunities for climate protection measures**

The public German bank "Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau" (KfW) offers the funding program "Klimaschutzoffensive für den Mittelstand" for medium-sized and communal enterprises and freelancers. The support is provided in the form of low-interest loans and grants. Measures and investments that serve to protect the environment und cli-mate are eligible for funding. These are, for example, the production of climate-friendly technologies, more ener-gy-efficient production processes or the generation of electricity from renewable energies.

Domestic and foreign companies are eligible for investments in Germany. Also projects and investments with participation of German companies in other countries of the European Union are eligible for funding.

Companies can submit applications for funding to their house banks. If you need further information contact KfW:

<https://www.kfw.de/kfw.de-2.html>

### **Overview of funding programs for projects regarding alternative energy**

The German Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy offers on its homepage an overview of funding possibilities in the field of renewable energies. (in German language)

<https://www.erneuerbare-energien.de/EE/Navigation/DE/Foerderung/Foerderprogramme/foerderprogramme.html>

## Japan

### **Promotion of foreign companies in the field of renewable energy**

The prefecture wants to cover the entire energy needs of the region from renewable resources by the year 2040. Therefore the market of this region is particularly attractive for foreign companies in the field of renewable energies. The Prefecture of Fukushima encourages the settlement of foreign companies. The support takes the form of grants. These can amount to up to 230,000 euros per project. There are also tax concessions and the possibility of obtaining low-interest loans.

Further information can be found on the homepage of the Prefecture of Fukushima:

<http://www4.pref.fukushima.jp/investment/eng/incentive/008/>

## United Kingdom

### **CrowdCube - alternative financing option for UK or Irish businesses (possibly European ones, too)**

Start-ups or scale-ups might be looking for equity crowdfunding for their innovative projects/ideas on CrowdCube. The private platform does not limit its services to any specific sectors. Have a look at current investment opportunities on the internet. Companies in need of equity rather than grants or loans – often the case in stages of quick or exponential growth or when money is needed for first bigger steps into the market.

CrowdCube is a member of the European Crowdfunding Network (ECN). You will find more information on the platform:

<https://www.crowdcube.com>

### **The UK Catalysing Green Innovation: strand 2**

Securing the future of Zero-emission vehicles funding competition from Innovate UK. This call is looking at funding research and develop technologies to help secure future zero emission vehicles innovation. This closes on 29th July 2020.

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/652/overview>

### **The Energy Catalyst round 8**

Clean energy access, feasibility projects funding competition by Innovate UK and the Department for International Development. This call will fund organisations that can develop and demonstrate innovative solutions for clean, affordable and secure energy access in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia or South East Asia – actually this call is an international R&D call. It actually comes in 3 phases, feasibility study for early project, industrial research for intermediate projects and experimental development for the most advanced ones. They close on September 16th 2020

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/612/overview#summary>

### **The Catalysing Green Innovation: strand 1**

Advancing PEMD supply chain competition by Innovate UK. UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £5 million to develop supply chain capability for power electronics, machines and drives (PEMD). This call closes on 29th July 2020.

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/648/overview>

If you would like to discuss any of the funding instruments or require assistance to identify relevant expertise, please contact a member of the funding team: [verena.wuersig@nrwbank.de](mailto:verena.wuersig@nrwbank.de) or [europa@nrwbank.de](mailto:europa@nrwbank.de).

This newsletter is a service of the Sector Group Intelligent Energy of the EU Commission's Enterprise Europe Network (<http://een.ec.europa.eu/>) and available for **download** on the website of the German Network partner NRW.EUROPA.

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