



WORKSHOP

Good practices on How to promote renewable energy in my local community

CERV Programme Network of Towns

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Promoter:



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RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MY LOCAL COMMUNITY

With the risign of environmental concern and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies solutions emerges as crucial solution for communities. The adoption of renewable energy sources, such photovoltaic, not only contributes to environmental preservation but also enhances the resilience of the energy sector by bringing the point of production closer to the consumer, thereby reducing losses in energy transportation.



In order to reduce the carbon footprint of Pinhel Municipal

services, the Municipality has implemented various solutions in its buildings. With focus on
energy efficiency and the incorporation of renewable energy solutions, the Pinhel Municipal
Swimming pool was constructed. Here, residents can engage in activities such as water
aerobics, aquatic gymnastics, hydrodeep, and age-specific learning. The pool is equipped with a
biomass boiler complemented by a solar thermal system, effectively minimizing the negative
environmental impact that its operation could otherwise cause.

Other municipal buildings have also undergone the implementation of renewable energies, including:

- Multi-Purpose Pavilion (Solar Thermal)
- · Pinhel Secondary School (Solar Thermal)
- · Pinhel Continuous Care Unit (Solar Thermal)
- · Town Hall (Heat Pump)
- · Primary Schools (Photovoltaic Solar + Solar Thermal)

In summary, the implementation of renewable energy production solutions in the Municipality of Pinhel offers significant advantages. Beyond the environmental benefits, with a reduction in carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions, the adoption of renewable energies stimulates the local economy. It is important to note that the Municipality of Pinhel's commitment to renewable energies also serves an awareness-building purpose, encouraging citizens to incorporate renewable energy solutions into their own homes, promoting an environmentally sustainable and energy-resilient municipality.

The administration of the Municipality of Alimos realized in time the consequences of the climate crisis and the possible upcoming changes especially for Mediterranean and coastal cities like us. In recent years, our municipality has intensified its efforts in every sector in which it has partial or universal responsibility in order to reduce the factors that help to accelerate climate change. A key factor for our city in reducing our ecological footprint is the management of our waste.

Our central policy in the management of waste is the fulfilment of the milestones set by the legislation of the Greek State, harmonized with the requirements of the European Union. In this



GREECE Dimos Alimou

context, we have reduced and will continue the effort in order to reduce the quantities of mixed waste, the management of which produces many pollutants and large amounts of greenhouse gases. Gases such as methane and carbon dioxide which seriously accelerate climate change.

In recent years, we have created new, separate streams for the collection of recyclable materials whose management is in line with the specifications and requirements of the circular economy. From the separate management of household bio-waste, green bio-waste, to the management of complex recyclable materials, the goal remains the continuous increase of the collected quantities with the simultaneous quality upgrade of the quantities. Increasing the management of these materials actively contributes to reducing our ecological footprint. For this effort we have committed serious resources of our Municipality and we focus on our continuous cooperation with the Citizens. We have targeted special groups of our Citizens, such as large bio-waste producers, professional groups, the educational community of the city, etc. Specially targeted training programs and familiarization with the new methods of collection and management of recyclable materials and waste are running on a constant basis. Frequent on-site visits and trainings are taking place, in all professional production areas of large quantities of recyclable materials with the participation of management and trainers.

https://www.alimos.gov.gr/

Regular on-site contacts are taking place with our citizens as well as thematic events in the neighbourhoods of the city. The training program that has been taking place for the last 5 years in all the schools of the city remains important to us. In cooperation with the local services of the Ministry of Education, the principals and teachers, the parents' associations and of course with our students, we strengthen the environmental teaching in all the schools of the city. We provide additional information through training experts on how to manage waste, recyclable materials and the circular economy. We have installed special lines for the collection of recyclable materials exclusively for all our school buildings and for each school room separately.

The results are impressive. Our initial view remains:

Our children, our educational community with the appropriate education can become our best ambassadors for reducing the ecological footprint of the city, and strengthening good practices for reducing the effects of climate change.

RAIN AND GREY WATER RECYCLING IN A KINDERGARTEN

Retain and recycle rainwater in the Zugló's Hétszínvirág Kindergarten.

During the project, Zugló implemented a pilot project at the Hétszínvirág Kindergarten. The rainwater collected from the flat roof and the grey water from the wet rooms accessible through the inner courtyard can be used for irrigation and toilet flushing after filtration and biological treatment.

Water shortages in recent days have also highlighted the strategic importance of rainwater harvesting and long-term sustainability. The CWC project explores the conditions for the



HUNGARY Budapest Fovaros Xiv Kerulet Zuglo Onkormanyzata

sustainability. The CWC project explores the conditions for this, not only from a strategic perspective, but also by gathering policy recommendations, technological solutions and promoting awareness-raising.

In the pilot project we implemented the following:

Collection of rainwater run-off from roofs, Collection of grey water from handwashers, Filter-cleaning gravel bed and root zone for water purification, Installation of 14 m3 underground tanks, Recycled rainwater to be used for irrigation and toilet flushing.

Direct benefits of the project:

Water savings, savings in the institution.

Reduced pressure on the sewerage system and drinking water sources.

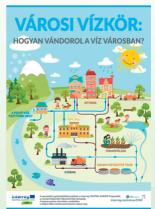
Experience in awareness raising, active participation in water management in the circular water management, production of educational materials and transfer of knowledge.

The project funded by European Union Interreg Central Program.

Summary video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIR3ZQNc25U&t=45s

The project also made a Policy recommendations open to use for all European urban actors: https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Policy-Recommendations-for-Circular-Urban-W ater-Managemen.html





SOLAR PANELS IN PLAYING FIELDS

Installing solar panels on playing fields or sports facilities is a viable and increasingly popular option for integrating renewable energy into community spaces. This is what the Had-Dingli Local Council did in "Gnien il-Familja".

Here are some considerations and benefits associated with installing solar panels on playing fields:

1. Energy Generation:

Solar panels can harness sunlight to generate electricity, providing a sustainable and renewable energy source. The electricity generated can be used to power pearby facilities such as lighting.

generated can be used to power nearby facilities, such as lighting, scoreboards, or other equipment.



2. Cost Savings:

Over time, solar installations can lead to cost savings on electricity bills for the facilities. The initial investment in solar panels is often offset by reduced energy expenses and potential revenue from excess energy generation.

3. Sustainability and Environmental Impact:

Solar power is a clean and renewable energy source, contributing to environmental sustainability. By reducing reliance on conventional energy sources, solar panels can help lower carbon emissions and decrease the overall environmental impact of sports facilities.

4. Educational Opportunities:

Installing solar panels in sports facilities provides an opportunity for educational outreach. Schools or community organizations can use the solar installation as a learning tool to educate students and the public about renewable energy technologies and their environmental benefits.

5. Dual-Use Spaces:

Integrating solar panels into playing fields allows for dual-use of the space. The area can serve its primary function for sports and recreational activities while also contributing to sustainable energy generation.

6. Community Engagement:

Solar installations in public spaces often garner community support and interest. Community members may appreciate the commitment to renewable energy and sustainable practices, fostering a sense of environmental responsibility.

7. Visibility and Aesthetics:

Solar panels can be designed and arranged in a way that enhances the aesthetics of the sports facility. The visibility of solar panels sends a visual message about the commitment to clean energy and sustainability.

When considering the installation of solar panels on playing fields, it's essential to conduct a thorough assessment of the site, taking into account factors such as sunlight exposure, local regulations, and the specific energy needs of the facility. Additionally, collaboration with stakeholders, including local communities, sports organizations, and energy experts, can contribute to the success of such projects.

STRIVE TO BE GREENER

Jelgava Local Municipality (JLM) has always stive to be more sustainable and greener in its actions. Therefore, there will be several examples mentioned to describe municipality's work towards long-lasting goals and decisions.

In its territory JLM has implemented numerous EU and state financed projects for energy saving. Thus there can be mentioned that almost all of municipal buildings are energy efficient or insulated to decrease CO2 emissions (in terms of JLM, not mention Ozolnieki LM which were united with JLM in 2021 and





LATVIA

Jelgavas Novada Pasvaldiba

still has a lot of work to be done). At first round (2009-2010) 12 municipal building were insulated withing Climate Change Financial Instrument fund (6 schools, 2 youth centre, 3 social centres, 1 public building). During 2013 – 2015 eleven more schools or preschool establishments, and 1 activity centre experienced similar improvements of energy efficiency. At the moment there are technical projects elaborated for energy efficiency projects for 4 more municipal buildings (2 schools, 2 public buildings). Also there are several good practices of transfer from fossil energy (coal/ gas) to renewable energy (pellets/ chips) in municipal buildings thus boosting cleaner environment and energy independence. There is also one outstanding building in the municipality – in 2013 the first low energy consumption building in Latvia – sports hall – was opened in JLM.

Almost half of public lighting in the municipality has been transformed to LED bulbs – 1865 bulbs out of 3100 replaced in last 3 years. Last year it made almost 90 000 EUR savings, even despite the increase of electricity prices.

As one of events to be mentioned for cleaner environment is Big clean-up day in whole Latvia and each municipality. It started in 2008 and grows year by year. During this day (usually in April) people clean their surroundings (gardens, street sides, parks, forests). Its started with around 50 000 participants and now it gathers more that 200 000 people around Lavia. Its started as only cleaning of territory (garbage), but lately has changed the character to improvements (planting trees, bushes, setting up trash bin, benches).

JLM also has potential of geothermal heat. At the moment its not used as there are no resources for proper research. Former research show that in the depth of 1350 m the water temperature is around 55-750 C. Entrepreneurs are interested in the use of this renewable and powerful resource.



Kaunas is one of the greenest cities in Lithuania, focusing on the search and implementation of sustainable solutions. The public institution Kaunas Fortress Park is not far behind in this area.

Public institution Kaunas Fortress Park is located in the vast territory of Kaunas city and Kaunas district. The institution has taken over 69 real cultural heritage objects from Kaunas city and Kaunas district municipality, and it protects, overcomes, and takes care of their use.

The objects of the former powerful military complex are exclusive and unique. located in various parts of the city, influencing both



LITHUANIA Kauno Tvirtoves Parkas

the urban structure and the natural environment. The militarism, closedness, brutality of the Soviet era created a fortress with a negative attitude, which is now being positioned as an "awkward heritage". Kaunas Fortress is understood as an object of unique military and fortifying defensive heritage, which had a huge influence on the urban and social development of interwar Kaunas

The activities of the Public Institution Kaunas Fortress Park are aimed at the sustainable preservation of the immovable cultural heritage, therefore, efforts are being made to use the natural resources of over 200 ha in the supervised territory in a sustainable and economical way: military objects were overgrown with trees, spontaneous thickets, the roots of which eroded roofs, masonry, water culverts.

After the start of mowing of spontaneous thickets in the territory of the forts, public institution Kaunas Fortress Park acquired a biofuel shredder for the production of pellets. The administration of the institution works in the artillery workshops built in the end of the XIX century and the venues are heated by self-made biofuel during the winter. Also, the premises of the barracks of Fort IV, where various communal, cultural events and civic initiatives are held, are heated by our own biofuel.

The use of green energy in a particular area – heating of cultural heritage buildings – allow Kaunas Fortress Park to expand its activities, qualitatively adapt and use more premises for both lectures of architecture students and gatherings of youth communities, as well as artistic projects and a civic initiative - The Trenasai Candle Factory, where volunteers cast candles for Ukrainian soldiers.



ENERGYHUB STEFNAKKER

The electricity grid in the Netherlands is full. The TSO has declared congestion on the electricity grid in Breda. Congestion affects Breda's business climate and sustainability goals. Additionally, the ambition for the Steenakker industrial estate to be energy-neutral by 2030 is not achievable.



THE NETHERLANDS

Due to congestion, companies cannot obtain additional capacity on the electricity network, making it impossible to install solar panels or electrify heating and mobility. In collaboration with the Municipality of Breda, the Steenakker industrial estate has

initiated a project to address grid congestion. The project follows a holistic system model approach. This approach is explained in the following video: Systeemintegratie - Semi autonome energiesystemen (youtube.com)

The system model presented in the video could be the end goal. This project marks the first step in this direction. The focus is solely on electricity, and only the essential backbone is established initially. Once the essential backbone is in place, various product propositions can be added, such as additional solar panels, charging stations, electrification of heating demand, storage, conversion, expansion of business activities, etc.

The project includes the following elements:

- Area-specific energy management system
- Energy trading platform
- Energy community

Area-specific energy management system

An energy management system is crucial for measuring and controlling energy flows. Participating companies are equipped with high-frequency measuring equipment, allowing electricity measurement at a small time interval (usually measured every 15 minutes, now every 10 seconds). The measurement data is read in real-time by the energy management system to control energy flows.

Energy trading platform

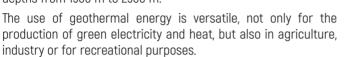
In addition to technology, it is important that energy flows are exchanged within the area, facilitating transactions. Therefore, an Energy Trading Platform (ETP) is necessary.

Energy community

Local ownership is crucial in the energy transition as it promotes societal support. An organizational structure is necessary to exchange energy within an area. With an energy community in which participating companies are shareholders, it becomes possible for the industrial estate to control its own energy system. By integrating the energy management system and energy trading platform into the energy community, a form of a community-based virtual power plant is created. This makes the industrial estate its own energy producer and supplier.

SLOVAKIA IS A RICH COUNTRY OF HOT WATER

In Slovakia is located 25 prospective areas of geothermal water. Abundant geothermal resources are available closer to the earth's surface and allow easier pumping in several locations for the purpose of efficient use for the production of green energy. In such places it is possible to find temperatures to 200°C at depths from 1500 m to 2500 m.







Mesto Fil'akovo

A lot of individual projects, funded from the private sector financial sources, are ready, or under preparation, to find and utilized geothermal waters for district heating Some of the projects are oriented on the new bathing and swimming facilities construction.

The most abundant geothermal resource, not only in Slovakia but throughout the central Europe, is Košice basin. The Košice geothermal resource is believed to be the largest in Slovakia. This is supported by good data considering that three exploratory wells has already been drilled in the area. The resource can generate heat to supply 171,000 customers and offset up to 54,000 tons of CO2 emissions per year. The geothermal project is also expected to provide residual heat for agriculture, recreational, and other purposes in the village along the 15-kilometer route of the heat pipe. Today, when people are worried about rising energy prices, Košice town has concrete solution that is strategic and ecological. They will significantly limit the burning of fossil fuels and households in Košice will have heat from a nearby geothermal well. Slovakia needs to use its natural energy resources to a greater extent and thus strengthen its energy self-sufficiency.

Town of Velky Meder with population of almost 9000 is situated in south part of Slovakia and well known mainly because of thermal spa operated since late 70's. Two geothermal wells are used for the needs of the spa. Thanks to positive long lasting operational experiences with geothermal system, favorable geological and hydrothermal conditions and presence of district heating systems, it was decided to implement geothermal district heating project in late 2015. Geothermal energy can be used for producing of 84 % of total heat energy produced in the central heat source annually. Up to 1 mil. m3 of natural gas is saved each year, which leads to the reduction of CO2 emissions by almost 2 tons.

The company PW Energy operates in the field of renewable energy sources (RES) with a focus on geothermal energy. Its goal is the implementation of geothermal centers for the production of electricity with the possibility of using residual heat for households and companies, in two locations in central and eastern Slovakia.

FROM BLACK TO GREEN AND BRIGHT

The City of Velenje is at a significant crossroads, because there is an extremely difficult restructuring period ahead of them, which is also an opportunity to develop and plan the future of the city in accordance with new global guidelines. The coal phaseout in the Šalek Valley, which according to the state and EU guidelines, is planned to take place by 2033. In the process of restructuring, the City must establish conditions for pleasant living in the local community and to switch to a clean source of energy within ten years. In order to achieve the EU's climate goals of reducing



VELENJE SLOVENIA

emissions by 2030 and making the EU climate neutral by 2050. City of Velenie is tackling the energy transition in their own way. To improve energy efficiency, a key element of a successful energy transition is the decarbonisation of the energy mix, which includes the elimination of carbon-intensive energy sources such as fossil fuels and the increase of energy production from low-carbon sources. The conversion of solar energy into electrical energy is extremely important in European and Slovenian energy policy, as it is one of the cleanest and most efficient renewable energy sources. The installed capacity of solar power panels in Slovenia was 1,101,500 kW at the end of last year. Since the City of Velenie is also aware of the green transition, they installed the first solar power plant with a nominal power of 17 kW in 2010 on the municipal building. In the same year, two more solar power plants were installed at two primary schools, with a total nominal power of 96 kW. By 2020, 142 small photovoltaic power plants with a total nominal power of 3.846 kW were installed and operating in the local community. The solar potential enables the future installation of additional solar power panels on public buildings owned by municipality. Last year, we approached the project of setting up solar power plants on 11 public buildings, with a total nominal power of 1.493 kW. The project will be carried out this year. This offers an excellent opportunity to establish a local energy community in near future, which will be supported by an electric car sharing system for employees in the municipal administration and municipal public institutions. These are small but important steps towards reducing emissions and achieving climate neutrality.



FREE ELECTRICITY FOR THE LOCAL TOWN OF MURAS

The municipality is located in the northwest of Lugo, in the Terra Chá -the "flat land", the largest region in Galicia-, at the foot of the Serra do Xistral and less than forty kilometers as the crow flies from the sea. A windswept plateau where the land was cheap, ideal for industries, which hardly encountered legal resistance or neighborhood opposition to the parks.

The case of Muras is somewhat particular, since renewable sources do not directly supply its electricity system, but they will be used to pay the electricity bills of the neighbors. Muras, in Lugo, is the Galician municipality with the most wind turbines.



SPAIN Asociacion Cultural Enrédate

The Galician Wind Energy Observatory, an independent research entity sponsored by the University of Vigo, calculates that electric companies obtain between 70 and 90 million euros each year from wind turbines in Muras. According to the mayor, barely 10% of that amount, around 900,000 euros, reverts to the citizens through Real Estate Tax (IBI) and Economic Activity Tax (IAE) collected by the City Council.

The town's mayor, Manuel Requeijo Arnedo, decided that this had to benefit its inhabitants first and foremost. So he decided to fight against energy poverty by using part of the income that the town council receives from the wind farms, more than 1.5 million a year, to pay the electricity bill of anyone who requested it. The Muras town council has approved an allocation of 150,000 euros to do this, and will give an annual bonus of up to 500 euros per year per household. That means that for many houses in Muras, paying for electricity will no longer be a problem. For the time being, the mills are in charge.



The city of Avignon has made a commitment to the energy transition by signing agreements with the Coopérative Citoyenne d'Energies Renouvelables, ENERCIPA, making roofs of municipal buildings available for the installation of solar panels1 This initiative is part of the Local Climate Plan, which aims to make Avignon an exemplary city in terms of protecting nature, combating global warming and reducing greenhouse gas emissions1.



ENERCIPA is an association that prefigures the future local renewable energy production cooperative, led by a collective of volunteer citizens from the Avignon region. Its aim is to develop

participative and citizen-based renewable energy projects, particularly solar, in the region2. ENERCIPA relies on the financial and technical support of Énergie Partagée, a national movement that supports local renewable energy initiatives2.

By making its roofs available, the city of Avignon is contributing to these citizen projects and reinforcing its commitment to energy sobriety. It has also launched insulation and solar panel installation work on its own buildings, such as the Jean-Louis Barrault library and the future Joly Jean school[3][3]. It has also designed four new districts (Avignon Confluence, the Gare de Montfavet eco-neighborhood, Bel Air and Joly Jean) as energy models, aiming to reduce energy consumption and increase the share of renewable energies[3][3].

This initiative by the municipality of Avignon illustrates its commitment to energy transition, in line with the strategic ambitions of Greater Avignon and the Plan Climat Air Energie Territorial (PCAET), which aims to halve energy consumption and multiply renewable energy production by 3.5 by 2050.



ENSURING RELIABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ENERGY PRODUCTION

"Toplofikatsiya Pleven" is a modern gas heating plant that, over the years, has demonstrated through a series of investments that providing green energy is possible. Thanks to the company's implemented ecological projects, Pleven has been receiving clean thermal energy for over 10 years," stated Eng. Jordan Vassilev, the executive director of the enterprise. He pointed out that the company has been following Europe's green policy to reduce carbon footprint for years.





BULGARIA Asotsiatsia Za Kulturen Obmen I Razvitie Na Lichnostta Vav Vsyaka Vazrast

He explained that over the years the company has implemented various projects that support the goal of carbon-neutral production. One of them is the investment in the purchase of an American gas turbine. He mentioned that the facility is one of the first built in the country. The initial investment cost was around 40 million leva, and over the years, they have continuously invested funds in the maintenance of the gas turbine. Through this significant investment, the executive director of "Toplofikatsiya Pleven" stated that they have taken an important step towards the modernization of production facilities. According to him, thanks to the gas turbine, Pleven has the most modern combined production of thermal and electrical energy in Bulgaria.

The director commented that as a responsible company, they have set sustainable development of "Toplofikatsiya Pleven" as their leading goal. There are plans to invest in the construction of alternative production facilities for combined production of thermal and electrical energy through internal combustion engines.

According to the director we should strive for efficient use of resources because the development of Bulgaria and Europe depends precisely on how we treat them. He added that ensuring the proper use of resources is indeed a strategic issue.

Increasing the share of energy produced from natural gas in Bulgaria's territory will contribute to achieving the goals of the so-called Green Deal, namely the gradual transition to a more environmentally friendly energy production by replacing coal with more eco-friendly sources. Currently, the increase in natural gas production is the main method through which heating plants, utilizing this blue fuel, can contribute to the green cause. Some are also developing projects for the integration of biomass and biogas as alternative fuels, which is also a good option, although biomass cannot replace the entire fuel mix by 100%, stated Vassiley.

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ITALY

More than a third of the electricity produced comes from green sources: hydroelectric has always dominated, followed by solar photovoltaic, bioenergy, wind and geothermal. Overall, Italy is the third largest producer of renewables in Europe. Establishing a community-driven solar energy initiative that involves local residents, businesses, and government support.



Community Engagement - Conduct awareness campaigns and workshops to educate the community about the benefits of solar energy. Encourage active participation and feedback from residents to ensure their concerns and ideas are considered.





ITALY

Feasibility Study - Conduct a thorough feasibility study to identify suitable

locations for solar installations, considering factors such as sunlight exposure, available space, and local regulations,

Partnerships - Collaborate with local businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies to form partnerships and share resources. This can include financial support, expertise, and access to suitable locations.

Financing Options - Explore various financing options, including government grants, subsidies, and private investments, to make the initiative financially viable for the community.

Incentives for Participants - Offer incentives for residents and businesses to participate in the program, such as reduced energy costs, tax credits, or community benefits like improved infrastructure.

Technology Integration - Utilize state-of-the-art solar technologies to maximize energy production efficiency and ensure the longevity of the installations.

Maintenance and Monitoring - Establish a system for regular maintenance and monitoring of the solar installations to ensure optimal performance and address any issues promptly.

Education Programs - Implement educational programs in local schools to teach students about renewable energy, sustainability, and the importance of community involvement.

Community-Owned Model - Consider a community-owned model where residents collectively own and manage the solar installations. This fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community.

Public Reporting - Maintain transparency by regularly reporting the energy production, savings, and environmental impact to the community. This helps build trust and keeps everyone informed about the initiative's success.

Sustainable Practices - Integrate sustainable practices into the initiative, such as using recycled materials for installations and landscaping to promote biodiversity.

Implementing such a community solar initiative encourages local collaboration, reduces carbon footprint, and contributes to Italy's renewable energy goals while fostering a sense of pride and responsibility within the community. Incentives in Italy for the production of energy from renewable sources:

1) From 65 to 50% of deductions for the production of energy from renewable sources in condominiums

Tax deductions are the most widespread and requested form of relief for those who install green energy production systems, for example photovoltaic panels on the roof. The IRPEF and IRES deduction is between 65% and 50% and refers to all energy requalification interventions of private or condominium homes.

2) Renewable energy bonus 2023

The latest Budget Law extended the "renewable bonus" intended for those who install storage systems integrated with electricity production plants powered using only "clean" and renewable sources. The time requirement for the request is that the applicant makes the expenditure within the period between 1 January and 31 December 2023.

3) Photovoltaic, deductions and bonuses in force

Among the systems that allow energy to be produced in a green way, photovoltaic is one of the most widespread both by companies and private citizens. The reasons include the economic savings that can be seen in electricity and electricity bills. Those who choose photovoltaic systems can obtain important deductions - up to 50% of the expenditure incurred - through the renovation bonus, with a maximum expenditure ceiling set by law at 96,000 euros. The time limit cannot be postponed: the works must be completed by 31 December 2024.



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