



ENERGY POVERTY

Energy poverty is the condition of who can not access adequate supplies of electric energy, gas or other fuels due to lack of economic resources. The main causes are: low income levels, high costs of energy, low energy efficiency (high consumptions). The consequences of energy poverty are not only economic, but it has also social repercussions and might affect mental and physical health.

Worldwide, 1,4 billion people have no access to Energy and 2,8 billion cannot use clean and reliable energy sources. In Europe Energy poverty afflicts 54 million people almost the 11% of the population.

In Italy the families in the state of energy poverty are almost 8,8% (2,2 million families, ca. 6,8 million people) of the total, in southern Italy the percentage raises to 14%. 16% of the population cannot heat its home and heating, cooling, lighting and appliances weight for the 15% of the whole budget of a family in energy poverty.

In 2019, only the 36% of the potential entitled recipients of the bonus or incentives to fight energy poverty actually applied for them. From the 1st of January 2021, the Social Bonuses are automatically granted to the entitled family units through the bills. No more applications to the local administrations are required. The three condition to receive the energy poverty aid are:

- 1) the family unit's Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator (ISEE) is less than 8.265€;
- 2) for more the 4 children families the ISEE threshold is 20.000€;
- 3) the family is already entitled to receive a "minimum income guaranteed by the State".

The main fields in which it is possible an intervention to reduce the Energy Poverty and its impacts (according the JRC) are the following:

1) Digitalization.

IT and ITC can be used to reduce energy consumption thanks, for example, to smart meters. It can depend on technical, geographical, social and cultural aspects.

2) Behavioural changes.

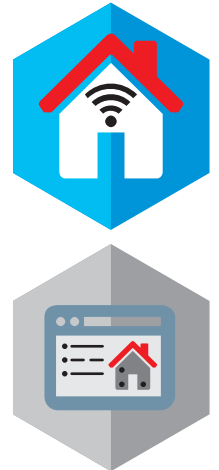
Tailored advices can stimulate a change in the life styles and everyday habits through consultants and visits at home.

3) Project financing.

Face the bureaucratic and financial barriers to the improvement of the energy efficiency in buildings, systems and appliances.

4) Sharing best practices.

Identifying and promoting tailored solutions to overtake technical, social and financial barriers which obstacle an energy retrofit in social housing.



Sources:

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