

REPLACE – Policy recommendations for the heat transition in Croatia (Primorsko-Goranska County)

From November 2019 to April 2023, the EU project [REPLACE](#) supported households to replace their old, inefficient heating appliances with modern, clean and climate-friendly heating systems. Within the context of the energy and climate crisis, enabling energy systems based on renewable energy sources installed in the regions - instead of fossil fuels imported from non-democratic states - is highly relevant for free societies.

This document contains recommendations for action at the political level, which the Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar considers helpful for the heat transition in Croatia based on the results of the project.

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Challenges & Solutions for Croatia

- There is a **need for qualified staff** (installers, energy advisors etc.), and some of the solutions could be:
 - Enticing the younger generations **to pursue careers** in fields related to sustainable energy systems
 - **Training of new installers** and other professionals
 - **Retraining** the staff who worked on gas and oil boilers
- **Sharing experiences and best practice examples** among professionals and consumers
- **Geothermal heating systems** are a sustainable and climate-friendly option, however, they face certain challenges:
 - There is a **shortage of drilling equipment**
 - **Political intervention** is needed to **speed up the process of obtaining permits** for the exploration and exploitation
- Consumers should be further educated on **how to save energy efficiently**
 - The end-users usually show high interest in the topic of renewable energy sources, so the information they receive should be **easy to understand** and **free of charge**
- It would be highly useful to **develop tools for making online applications for clean energy systems easier**
 - That way, **more consumers would apply** and **the processing** of the applications would be **significantly simplified**

- Energy prices are continuously increasing, so there is still a need for:
 - **Limitations** of energy prices for households
 - **Subsidies** on local, regional and national level
 - **Support** for the lower income households, vulnerable energy buyers, retirees etc.

Further outlook & research needs for Croatia

- Establishment of **equal conditions on the thermal energy market** - it is necessary to take local specifications into account
- Encouragement of **the use of waste heat energy**
- **Stop subsidizing fossil fuel** boilers and **making renewable systems accessible** to everyone
- Broad initiative to encourage the end consumers to **thermally insulate** and **install a renewable energy system** in their homes



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