The Commission is closely monitoring the development of energy prices and energy poverty. While most measures to fight energy poverty are in the realm of the Member States, the Commission is working with them to ease the situation for European citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

The European Pillar of Social Rights recognizes people’s right to access essential energy services and calls for support for those in need (principle 20). Its Action Plan sets out concrete initiatives for 2022 to ensure no one is left behind that will also contribute to tackle energy poverty: guidance to enhance Member States use of ex-ante distributional impact assessments, a Report on access to essential services and a proposal for a Council Recommendation on minimum income.

In 2020, the Commission adopted a Recommendation on Energy Poverty\(^1\) and launched the Renovation Wave\(^2\) that includes actions to tackle energy poverty, notably by reducing energy bills through increased energy efficiency.

The green transition and the reforms set out in the Fit for 55 package are key to tackle the increasing energy prices and risk of energy poverty. Last July 2021, the Commission has proposed the creation of a Social Climate Fund to provide dedicated funding to Member States to support European citizens most affected or at risk of energy or mobility poverty.

On 13 October 2021, the Commission adopted a Communication on Energy Prices\(^3\) to tackle the current rise in energy prices. It includes a toolbox of short- and long-term measures to alleviate the situation, including measures to help combat energy poverty. The Commission will also present before the end of 2021 a proposal for a Council Recommendation on the social and labour aspects of a just transition towards climate neutrality.

---

\(^1\) Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1563 of 14 October 2020 on energy poverty
\(^2\) Commission Communication 2020/662 of 14 October 2020 on A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives
\(^3\) Commission Communication 2021/660 of 13 October 2021 on Tackling rising energy prices: a toolbox for action and support