

ENERGY EFFICIENCY 4SMEs

Final Newsletter



EnergyEfficiency4SMEs

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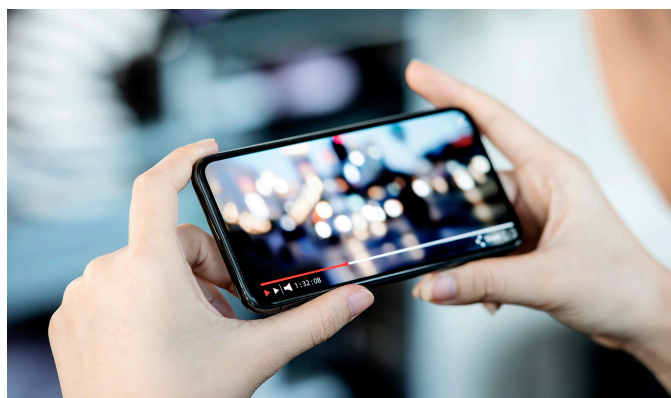
Energy Efficiency in Action: Equipping SMEs for a Green Transition

The EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project wrapped up in Brussels, highlighting how over 1,000 energy-saving measures have helped SMEs turn audits into action.

Top News

Economic study reveal how sustainability investments are strengthening SME performance across Europe

Partners' case in addressing the energy efficiency gap in SMEs



**SMEs Success Stories in
Energy Efficiency**

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN ACTION:

Equipping SMEs for a Green
Transition



ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN ACTION: TURNING AUDITS INTO IMPACT FOR SMES

On 16 October in Brussels, the EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project partners gathered for the final event, **Energy Efficiency in Action: Equipping SMEs for a Green Transition**, marking a milestone in supporting SMEs across Europe in their energy efficiency journeys.

Since its launch in 2022, the project has assisted SMEs in implementing over **1,000 energy efficiency measures** across **ten countries**, turning energy audits into tangible results. The event highlighted the impact of these measures, sharing key insights on methodologies and tools designed to help SMEs overcome barriers and adopt sustainable practices.

Project partners' showcased how expert technical advice can be translated into real energy savings and improved operations. Presentations from energy experts, project partners, and representatives of SME beneficiaries demonstrated the importance of tailored support in effectively applying audit recommendations.

The "From Audits to Action" session featured inspiring examples of how **151 energy audits** have encouraged SMEs to optimize operations, cut down consumption, and embrace sustainability. The project's **IMPAWATT platform** supported these SMEs by offering them with self-assessment tools, best practices, and financial guidance to design impactful energy-saving strategies.



Antonija Božič Cerar, Chair of Eurochambres Sustainability Committee, emphasized the vital role of the chambers network in providing SMEs access to information, audits, and training – key ingredients for a successful green transition.

“Two-thirds of energy is wasted, so everything we do to improve energy efficiency is a win-win. With the energy efficiency measures implemented, we could reduce net emissions by up to 50 gigatons of CO₂ by 2030.”

Experts also discussed the value of non-energy benefits and embedding SME-focused energy policies at national and EU levels, highlighting how the project’s legacy will continue shaping sustainable business practices for years to come.

The event closed on a high note with reflections on achievements, lessons learned, and a strong commitment to fostering energy efficiency as a core part of SME competitiveness and climate action across Europe.

All the information and pictures about the final event can be [found here](#). The final event video is available [here](#).



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY 4SMEs

Inspiring practices: promoting in-company energy efficiency recommendations



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FROM CHALLENGES TO CHANGE: SME SUCCESS STORIES IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Discover how SMEs across EnergyEfficiency4SMEs country hubs are turning environmental challenges into opportunities for innovation and growth! Our new collection of **nine short video stories** captures the real experiences of companies that have effectively addressed environmental management challenges through innovative practices, cost-saving measures, and sustainable transformations.

Each story showcases practical actions and tangible results, from cutting energy costs to improving resource efficiency, inspired by the tailored recommendations and expert support provided through our project. From energy efficiency upgrades to digitalization and greener production methods, each story reflects a unique pathway toward sustainable growth.

Hear directly from **company representatives** as they share their insights, watch their transformation unfold through on-site footage, and see how targeted guidance has helped them make lasting changes.

The videos are available in the national languages of the participating countries, with English subtitles to make them accessible to audiences across Europe.

Watch the [videos here](#) and get inspired by SMEs leading the way to a more sustainable future!



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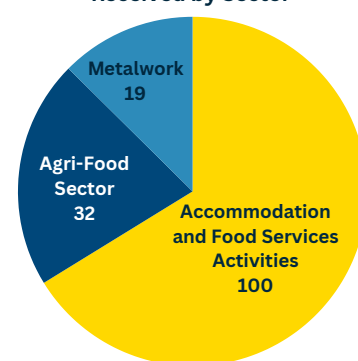
FROM SAVINGS TO SUCCESS: THE BUSINESS IMPACT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY ON SMES

Energy efficiency is proving to be a winning strategy for SMEs as both a sustainability and competitiveness strategy. The **Follow-up High-level Economic Study on Energy Efficiency in Accommodation and Agri-foods & Metalwork Manufacturing** study by the **Malta Business Bureau (MBB)** and conducted by **Deloitte Malta**, builds on the project's earlier research to reveal how sustainability investments are strengthening SME performance across Europe.

The study shows impressive engagement in energy audits across all partner countries. **151 audits were completed**, exceeding the original target by over 7%. The highest participation came from the accommodation and food services, agri-food, and metalwork manufacturing sectors, with micro and small businesses leading the way. This strong response confirms that, with the right support and incentives, SMEs are ready to embrace energy-saving opportunities.

The most common recommendations focused on lighting and heating upgrades, renewable energy adoption, ventilation and cooling improvements, and process optimisation. Other high-impact measures included building insulation, compressed air efficiency, heat recovery, and staff awareness initiatives. All delivering a mix of technical, economic, and environmental benefits.

Total Audits
Received by Sector



The findings also highlight significant 'non-energy benefits', such as improved workplace comfort, higher staff productivity, lower absenteeism, and better service quality. Challenges remain, with many companies citing financial and administrative barriers. Yet, the report points to solutions such as innovative financing mechanisms and stronger advisory support to overcome these hurdles.

Full report [here](#).



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LIFE EE4SME WRAPS UP – BUT ENERGY EFFICIENCY EFFORTS CONTINUE IN VENETO!

Unioncamere del Veneto (UCV), as the Italian partner of the LIFE EnergyEfficiency4SME project, has helped companies across the Veneto region stay informed about the latest new management and incentives for energy efficiency. Through dedicated training sessions, participating SMEs received guidance, consulting, and energy audits to better understand their energy consumption and identify potential savings.

By analyzing data such as electricity and gas bills and annual energy use, companies were able to discover new funding opportunities through the Portal Agevolazioni, created to support Italian businesses and the IMPAWATT platform, which now hosts 10 best practices collected in the region, offering inspiration for other SMEs to follow.



One success story comes from Vecom Meccanica SRL, a metal products manufacturer. After installing a 92 kWp photovoltaic system, the company now self-produces about 60% of its energy needs and saves approximately €3,000 per month on its energy bills.

**60% OF ITS ENERGY
NEEDS**

€3,000 saved per month

Although the LIFE EE4SME project is concluding, UCV will continue to support companies by sharing information on upcoming regional, national, and European funding opportunities. Through its collaboration with the chamber network and the Portal Agevolazioni, and as leader of the Friend Europe Consortium within the Enterprise Europe Network, Unioncamere del Veneto will keep SMEs informed through regular updates and newsletters.



IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOTELS WITH MINIMAL INVESTMENT

As part of the EnergyEfficiency4SME project, the Austrian partners EIW, e7, and WKT focused on optimizing existing building management systems in hotels. Experience from similar initiatives has shown that substantial efficiency gains can often be achieved quickly and with minimal or no investment simply by fine-tuning how systems operate. In this context, the Austrian team carried out detailed analyses of electricity load profiles (recorded at 15-minute intervals) and reviewed whether building systems were operating logically and efficiently.

The results were remarkable. At one Vienna city hotel, electricity use in summer was found to be up to 70% higher than in winter due to excessive cooling. After identifying the issue through a careful analysis of the load profile, the ventilation volumes were significantly reduced between 10:20 and 16:00, leading to lower cooling demand. As a result, the building was cooled more effectively, guest comfort improved, and energy consumption fell by nearly 18% – without any investment at all.

In **another 170 beds hotel**, a new building control software had recently been installed, but the system parameters were poorly configured. During the EE4SMEs project, the team reviewed and optimized the setpoints: heating, which previously started below 18 °C, and cooling, which was active from 11 °C upwards, were adjusted to reflect actual comfort needs. The 20,000-liter heat storage tank had been set at 84 °C, rendering the 170 m² solar thermal system nearly useless; this too was corrected. In several areas, such as dining rooms and stairwells, excessive night-time setpoints of up to 24 °C were reduced.

After these adjustments, and with only a small investment of less than €6,000 (mainly for a larger heat exchanger), the hotel achieved energy savings of more than 20%, alongside improved comfort for guests and staff.

20%
energy saving

These examples clearly demonstrate how optimizing existing building control systems can lead to significant energy savings with little or no investment, offering hotels—and other SMEs—a practical and cost-effective path toward greater energy efficiency.



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SEA YOU APARTMENTS – SMART ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Overlooking the Mediterranean in Port Saplaya, Valencia, **SEA YOU Apartments** has become a model of how energy efficiency can transform a small tourism business.

Through the EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project and with support from the **Valencia Chamber of Commerce**, the complex carried out an in-depth energy audit to identify practical ways to reduce consumption, emissions, and costs while maintaining guest comfort.

The audit revealed an annual use of 257,839 kWh and 66,780 kg of CO₂ emissions, highlighting clear opportunities for improvement. Based on these findings, several **efficiency measures were implemented**: high-performance air conditioning, PVC double-glazed windows for better insulation, smart Wi-Fi-controlled water heaters, and LED lighting throughout the building. A future installation of photovoltaic panels is also planned to generate part of the building's own energy.



These actions are expected to cut the building's energy index by 25%, reduce emissions by nearly 17 tonnes of CO₂ per year, and save around £24,000 annually, all while improving comfort and sustainability.

**17 TONNES
OF CO₂**

emission reduced per year

Beyond the numbers, the project has fostered a new environmental awareness among SEA YOU's management and staff, who now integrate sustainable practices into daily operations. SEA YOU Apartments stands as a clear example of how small tourism enterprises can lead the way toward a more efficient and responsible future.



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KERNU MANOR – PRESERVING HERITAGE, POWERING THE FUTURE

Kernu Manor in Estonia perfectly illustrates how **history and sustainability can go hand in hand**. With the support of the EU-funded EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project and the **Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, the historic estate has taken significant steps to reduce its energy use while maintaining its cultural heritage.

Restored by its owners out of a deep commitment to community and heritage, Kernu Manor has grown since 2015 from a small café into a distinctive hospitality destination. Operating a centuries-old building presents unique challenges: **heritage restrictions** limit insulation options, and the limestone walls, though beautiful, are not energy efficient. To address this, Kernu Manor first invested in a geothermal heating system and later joined the EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project to **identify further improvements**.

With expert guidance and training from the EE4SMEs project and advisory support from the Chamber's experts, the manor identified funding for a **20 kW solar panel system**, installed in summer 2024. The **panels generate around 20–22 MWh per year**, meeting up to **30% of energy needs** during sunny months and achieving **savings of up to 31%** on busy days. The investment is expected to pay back within two years.

31%
energy saving

Encouraged by these results, the owners plan to **expand solar capacity** and add battery storage to **increase renewable energy use** even further. Thanks to the EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project and the Chamber's support, Kernu Manor now stands as a model of sustainable heritage hospitality, showing that preserving the past can power a greener future.



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HOTEL SH DOLCE VITA – DRIVING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY USE ON THE BLACK SEA

Hotel SH Dolce Vita, located in Bulgaria, operates seasonally with significant energy demand driven by cooling systems and domestic hot water supply. Managing electricity consumption efficiently is a priority.

Through the EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project, and the guidance of the **Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, the hotel underwent a comprehensive **energy audit** to explore **solutions for reducing energy use and emissions**. Supported by expert guidance, several key measures were implemented this year: installation of an air-to-water heat pump for domestic hot water, new high-efficiency cooling units, a solar thermal system, and a 102 kWp photovoltaic installation for on-site electricity generation.

These improvements are expected to deliver **energy savings of around 300 MWh per year**, reducing **CO₂ emissions by over 240 tonnes annually** – a **30% cut in total** energy use. The systems were commissioned in March and June 2025, with immediate positive results and further optimization planned for the next season.

Hotel SH Dolce Vita investment in renewable technologies enhances both its energy performance and its image as a forward-looking, environmentally responsible destination on the Black Sea coast.



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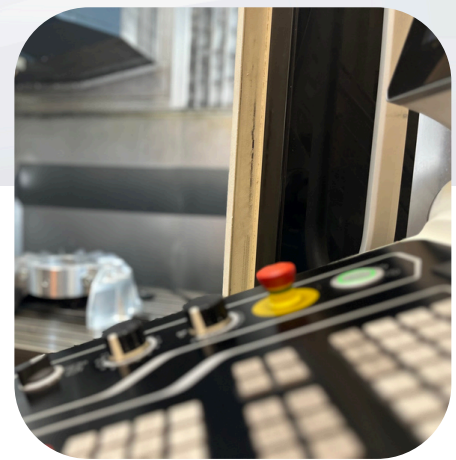
STSI: PRECISION ENGINEERING FOR A GREENER FUTURE

STSI (Sous-Traitance et Services pour l'Industrie) is a precision mechanics SME based near Besançon in France's Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region. Since 1996, it has served demanding sectors such as luxury industry, space, aeronautic and nuclear industries, to medical, defense and automotive sectors, combining technical excellence with innovation.

Keen to reduce its environmental footprint, in 2023 STSI joined the EU-funded EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project with the support of the **CCI Bourgogne Franche-Comté** (CCI BFC). Following an energy audit co-financed by ADEME, the company began implementing a series of **improvement measures to cut its annual electricity use**, which stood at 400 MWh in 2022.

With CCI BFC's technical guidance, STSI has already **completed or launched 60% of the recommended actions**, achieving estimated savings of *130 MWh per year* – about *30% less energy consumption*

Key steps include optimizing compressor operation, repairing air leaks, recovering heat, adjusting degreaser heating times, and promoting eco-friendly behavior among staff. In 2025, STSI went further by studying the feasibility of a solar carport system **covering 25 parking spaces with 132 panels**. Results show a potential **99.3% self-consumption rate** and up to **13% reduction in electricity** purchases.



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT MAMMA CHICA: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN ACTION

MAMMA CHICA, an agritourism farm in La Spezia (Italy), perfectly combines tradition, quality, and sustainability. This family-run business has long made sustainable tourism a cornerstone of its philosophy. Through the EnergyEfficiency4SME project, MAMMA CHICA benefited from an energy audit that provided an in-depth analysis of its energy consumption and identified key areas for improvement.

Further measures included the installation of a new pellet stove heating system and the replacement of old windows with more efficient wooden frames and PVC shutters, ensuring greater thermal comfort and lower energy demand. The existing gutters and downpipes were restored for reuse, reducing the need for new materials and supporting a circular approach to renovation. As part of the renovation of a portion of the farmhouse to improve its accommodation facilities, MAMMA CHICA first improved the thermal insulation, a fundamental element in reducing heat loss during the winter and keeping the rooms cool in the summer.

Building on these results, MAMMA CHICA has also applied for regional funding under a Liguria Region call for energy efficiency to install photovoltaic panels for self-consumption. This investment will enable the company to produce renewable energy directly on-site, further lowering its carbon footprint and operating costs. Thanks to the LIFE EE4SME project, the interventions carried out not only enhance the comfort and sustainability of the farm's facilities but also position MAMMA CHICA as a leading example of how SMEs can successfully combine hospitality, well-being, and respect for the environment.



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Project Partners



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