

3. Less power black-outs and outages

Stay powered

With rising global challenges leading to fuel shortages and extreme weather, access to secure energy is vital to ensure our lives stay powered and switched on.



The larger the interconnected area is, **the less likely it is to experience outages and blackouts.** If a power-line broke, energy from other places could quickly be rerouted to guarantee energy supply.

Be independent

The EU imports more than half of all the energy it uses, costing up to 207 billion euros in 2016. Some Member States are up to 97 percent dependent on imported energy*, meaning they are vulnerable to energy outages and blackouts since they are

not self-sufficient. Creating an interconnected grid would let European countries support each other, **reducing the dependence on energy imported from outside the EU.**

Energy networks need updating to stay efficient and running smoothly. Some of our networks are ageing and need renovations to remain stable, secure, and competitive.

Europeans consume nearly 1.1 billion tonnes of energy every year. This is mainly used to heat our homes, power our transport and produce everything we consume. While efforts have been made in improving energy efficiency, modernisation of our networks is important to achieving our goals. Exchanging energy between EU Member States maximises our energy's reliability and reduces our dependence on other countries. **The more self-sufficient we are, the cleaner, cheaper, and less dependent we will be.**

Source: Eurostat, Energy dependency in the EU, February 2016



Energy Grid

Interconnections in Europe

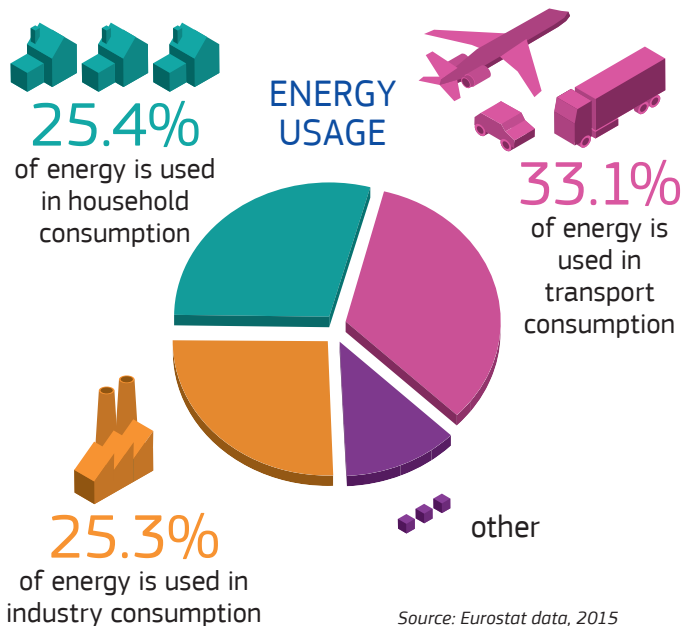


What's the issue?

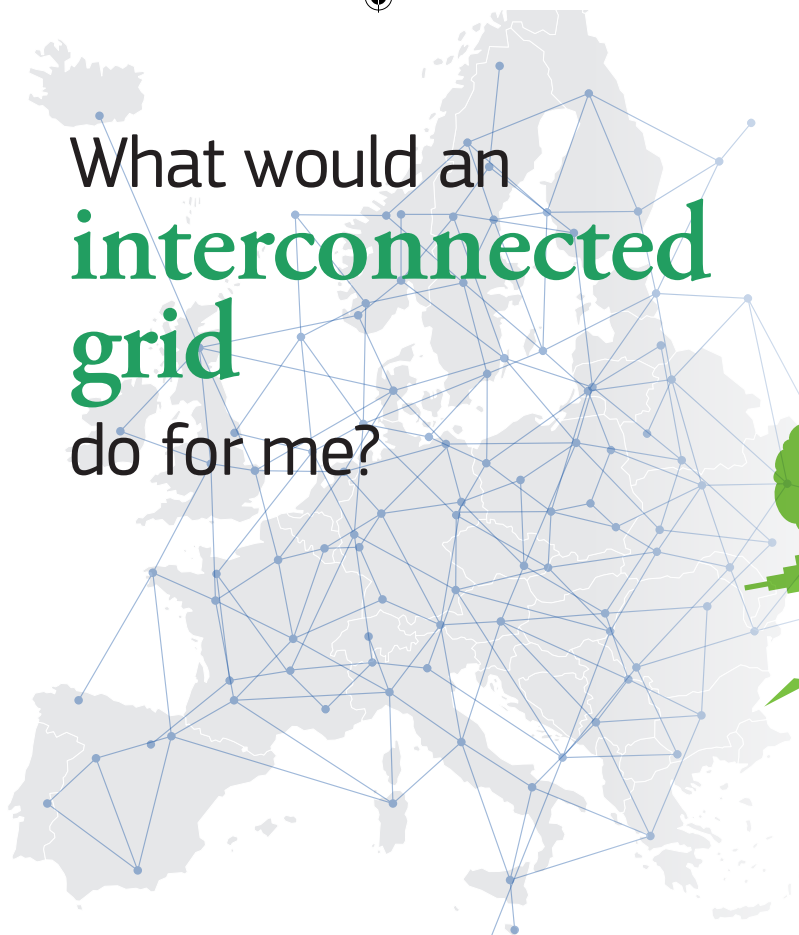
The energy grid carries power from generation units and takes it to our homes, our businesses, our hospitals and schools, and our public spaces. We use power for almost everything we do, and energy is central to our modern society and essential for all parts of our economy and daily life.

But to provide sustainable, affordable and secure energy to all Europeans for future decades, and ensure Europe's self-sufficiency and prosperity, we need a modern and interconnected energy network that connects right the way across Europe.

Our current energy grids have too few interconnections between countries, creating disconnected networks that too rarely cross national borders. These isolated networks cannot support each other and are less efficient. They are also more expensive. By linking up these networks and building a larger interconnected grid, we can provide energy that is more secure and affordable. We can also use more renewable power sources, developing sustainable energy.



What would an interconnected grid do for me?



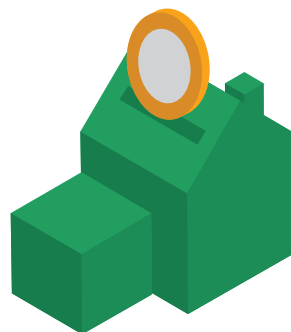
1. Lower energy bills

Wider choice, lower prices

By connecting energy networks across Europe, you would get a greater choice of who to buy your energy from. Europeans on average spend 25 percent

of their budget on housing, water, electricity and gas. Increased competition would **drive prices down**, lowering the amount of money consumers spend on energy each month.

By connecting your home to a power generator in another country, we would also avoid spending money on constructing extra power generation units nearby, driving down the overall cost of energy for you. This ensures that you have access to affordable energy when you need it.



2. Increased use of clean energy

Easier access to renewable energy

In some cases renewable energy comes from remote locations and is harder to reach. By creating an interconnected

and more modern grid, we could **bring renewable resources to our homes, businesses and towns** more easily. We would get wind power from the North Sea, solar energy from Southern Europe, or biomass from Eastern Europe to the places where they are needed. This aspect is going to become more important as time goes by, because renewable energy usage is expected to increase very substantially over the coming decades.

