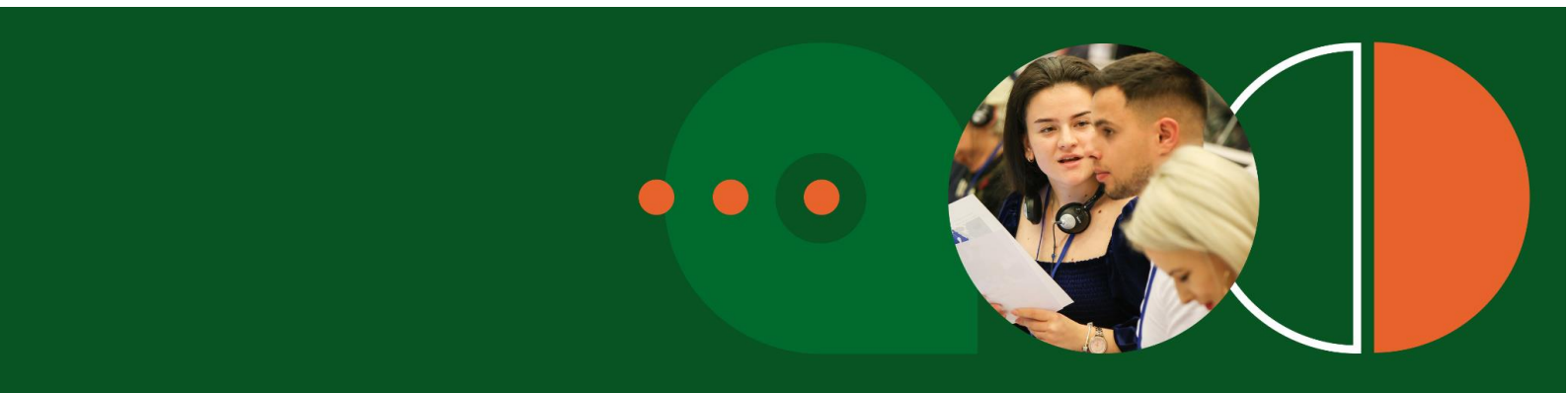




CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM ON

ENERGY

EFFICIENCY



Final consultation report - June 2024

*Analysis conducted and report written by Make.org.
Platform implemented and moderation carried out by Open Source Politics.*



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an effort to enhance citizen participation on European issues, the European Commission launched a Citizens' Engagement Platform topic, focusing on energy efficiency. This platform, available in all official EU languages, facilitated an online discussion from 15 February 2024 to 31 May 2024, with a complementary citizen panel convened in parallel.

The report at hand outlines the main findings of the online discussion - grouped by 10 dimensions and 25 topics. Relevant results include the importance of raising awareness, simplifying energy retrofit procedures, promoting sustainable transport, and increasing support for renewable energies. Citizens emphasised collective action, educational initiatives, and simplified bureaucratic processes to enhance energy efficiency.

1. INTRODUCTION

To allow for more citizen participation on the European level, the European Commission enabled new modes of engagement for EU citizens. On the **topic of energy efficiency**, the Citizens' Engagement Platform was activated to allow for a corresponding online discussion. The discussion was available in all official EU languages and was open from 15 February 2024 to 31 May 2024. In parallel to the digital discussions, a **citizen panel** that also deliberated on energy efficiency was held. The online results were presented to the panel during the second and the (final) third session to connect the online and offline participation methods.

As outlined below, the consultation platform dedicated to citizen discussions on the issue of energy efficiency collected **273 citizen contributions**, supplemented by **140 comments** and **230 endorsements**. Thanks to this digital participation space, **almost 300 citizens** were able to contribute to the overall process and thus directly enrich the European decision-making process.

This report establishes the final analysis of all the contributions, gathered and analysed by **dimensions** according to the most frequent **citizens' topics** based on the contributions.

Broadly speaking, this consultation unveiled the predominance of debates around **5 major dimensions**, which brought together close volumes of contributions: (1) raising awareness (amongst citizen and institutions), (2) energy retrofit, (3) sustainable and new forms of mobility, (4) renewable energy, and (5) support and subsidies as leverage of a more responsible consumption.

This report will first outline the analysis methodology before providing an overview on the developments on the platform. This overview is divided into participation numbers and in the broad content outline. The report then provides a detailed analysis of each dimension by discussing every citizens' topic, including illustrative quotes from the citizens' engagement platform. To conclude, the last chapter will provide a summary of the content and a short discussion.

2. METHODOLOGY

To identify the content on the Citizens' Engagement Platform discussion in relation to energy efficiency, a three-step methodology was applied. It ensures a precise investigation of citizens' contributions on different topics. Besides, it allows for a reasonable clustering and grouping of ideas to identify the main lines of discussion. By doing so, one reaches the right balance between grouping similar contributions and allowing for a high level of detail.

STEP 1. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS of the contributions & comments: the primary dimensions of the debate were identified. To do so, the analysis team applied a theme-based approach: labelling every contribution with respective subjects. This allowed prioritisation amongst the ideas proposed by citizens

STEP 2. ANALYSIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS in the dimensions: a manually conducted qualitative analysis. It included thematic grouping that led to the construction of 'citizens' topics,' determined by their occurrence within the dimension.

STEP 3. COMMENTS AND ENDORSEMENTS are taken into account: an analysis was done for each contribution and comment (when they were considered appropriate), with a highlight on some contributions relevant to illustrate the topic.

GLOSSARY

- **A Contribution** is a single item shared by a participant on the platform.
- **Comments** are the participants' written reactions to an initial contribution. Comments open debate starting from the initial topic and allow participants to communicate with each other.
- **Endorsements** are the votes of participants who want to support a specific contribution. Some contributions are non-endorsed.
- **Dimensions** are a headline that merges the thoughts of a great number of contributions
- **Citizens' Topics** are subcategories of a dimension, composed of one or more contributions.

3. OVERVIEW

NUMBERS

Global participation, from 15/02/24 to 31/05/2024

- **17 612** pages views
- **264** participants
- **273** contributions
- **140** comments
- **230** endorsements

Since the redaction of the interim report (as of April 9, 2024), the platform has registered a significantly higher level of participation, **with 184 new contributions and 22 new comments**. The analysis has also been enriched by new insights: a new dimension, *Renewable energies*, has been detected and analysed through 3 related citizens' topics, while the dimensions *Awareness* and *Traffic and Mobility* have been enriched by one new citizens' topic each. **In total, 1 new dimension and 5 new citizen topics were added.**

ALL DIMENSIONS AND CITIZENS' TOPICS AT A GLANCE

The table below presents all identified dimensions and citizens' topics in a single view. In the following chapter (4. *In-depth analysis*), all topics are investigated in more detail.

The table also displays the sum of contributions (Σ) that fall under each corresponding dimension. The total number of contributions per dimension (382) exceeds the overall total number of contributions (273) since the content of individual contributions may pertain to multiple dimensions simultaneously.

DIMENSIONS	Σ	CITIZENS' TOPICS
1. AWARENESS	69	1.1 Raise awareness to encourage better consumption
		1.2 Organise meetings and exchanges at all levels
		1.3 Educate citizens from the earliest age
		1.4 Encourage citizens to change their behaviour
		1.5 Notify citizens about the options available to them
		1.6 Involve citizens
2. ENERGY RETROFIT	68	2.1 Take collective action
		2.2 Simplify procedures
		2.3 Fight against energy-inefficient buildings
3. TRAFFIC & MOBILITY	61	3.1 Encourage sustainable transport
		3.2 Support electric transport
		3.3 Replace massively polluting means of transport
4. RENEWABLE ENERGY	58	4.1 Use greener energies
		4.2 Dedicate funding to promote renewable energies
		4.3 Reuse waste
5. SUPPORT & SUBSIDIES	53	5.1 Implement subsidies and enforcing strict standards
		5.2 Taxes to encourage more responsible consumption
		5.3 Invest to encourage different energy consumption
6. CREATION & STORAGE	28	6.1 Improve the use and storage of green energy
7. SOLIDARITY	19	7.1 Demonstrate solidarity as crisis response
8. HEATING	11	8.1 Use heating systems more efficiently
		8.2 Implement district heating solutions
9. LIGHTING	10	9.1 Change lighting habits
10. GREEN SPACES	5	10.1 Respect landscapes
		10.2 Green cities

4. IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

In the following, the different dimensions are explored in more detail. To that end, every citizens' topic is analysed specifically, bringing together different aspects of the contributions.

DIMENSION 1: AWARENESS

Citizens' Topic 1.1: Raise awareness to encourage better consumption

Topic ANALYSIS

The aim is to provide information to enable citizens to become more aware of their consumption, while denouncing bad ways of consuming. The ideas also include encouraging citizens to adopt new reflexes on a daily basis by alerting them about their consumption (e.g. by putting modules on sockets that indicate how much energy they use). In turn, it is proposed to denounce bad ways of consuming, to avoid normalising them (e.g. calling out on the opening of doors in stores in winter when heating, and leaving store signs switched on at night, buying from fast-fashion brands).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Sonja, 6 endorsements

"Integrate energy consumption meters into sockets/light switches, so that the power consumption is forwarded to an app that ideally determines directly the cost of consumption, similar to in electric cars."

Adela, 0 endorsements

"I want them to focus on the sustainability of clothing. It is also due to climate and overall fast fashion production worldwide."

Citizens' Topic 1.2: Organise meetings and exchanges at all levels

Topic ANALYSIS

The ideas shared on the platform include to organise meetings, talks and discussions at European, national and local levels to talk about issues related to

Energy efficiency. In that way, people would be alerted to ecological questions, the risks of high energy consumption and possible solutions. This could be done using the strength of social media.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Mikas, 1 endorsement

“EU wide discussion is crucial for this topic, given into account that there's a war going on in Europe right now.”

Isabelle, 1 endorsement

“Start this day of the session on energy efficiency. A lot of information, exchanges, sharing between the countries of Europe, experts and us European citizens. What a chance we have to have this possibility, all together to evolve consciences and morals.”

Citizens' Topic 1.3: Educate citizens from the earliest age

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens suggest taking action in schools to raise awareness amongst younger generations, for example through hands-on workshops. In turn, they would carry messages on energy efficiency forward (e.g. through social activities, school programs, informing parents).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Gerald, 4 endorsements

“By focusing on educating the younger generations about energy efficiency, we lay the foundation for a more sustainable future. Investing in the education of younger generations (via socials, school programmes, empowering parents, etc) about energy efficiency is not just an option; it's a necessity for building a sustainable future.”

Joanna, 0 endorsements

“In schools there should be increased attention to these topics through practical projects with a tangible impact involving the whole community.”

Citizens' Topic 1.4: Encourage citizens to change their behaviour

Topic ANALYSIS

Some citizens share that people consuming less is neither realistic nor sufficient, so they need to learn how to consume differently. The shared goal is to explain and convince the public that certain deeply ingrained habits are not necessary or essential. It is possible to give them up (e.g. reducing all screens used for advertising, scaling down on mass events with large crowds and equipment; replacing unnecessary business travel by videoconferences; reducing the transport of goods by consuming more local and seasonal products; encouraging remote work).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Laurent, 4 endorsements

“To consume less energy, it is not enough to gain efficiency because it encourages to consume more, so we need a less energy-intensive socio-economic organization, thus reducing avoidable travel.”

Emmanuel, 2 endorsements

“A simple thing to reduce the energy use of a superfluous sector : remove all the screens used for advertising.”

Citizens' Topic 1.5: Notify citizens about the options available to them

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens shared the idea of educating each other mutually and providing solutions and support so they can make more respectful choices to the environment (e.g. recycling, insulating their homes to consume less energy).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Mirko, 7 endorsements

“More efforts must be made to make it more attractive, desirable and convenient to pursue energy efficiency [...] Information campaigns on TV, social media and events are needed.”

Maripaze, 1 endorsement

“By giving objects a second life, the need to produce new products is reduced. Consequently, the amount of natural resources used, the ecological footprint

and the energy consumed in manufacturing is reduced.”

Citizens' Topic 1.6 : Involve citizens

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens shared the idea to educate people more and give them possible solutions and support so they can make choices that are more respectful towards the environment (e.g. recycling, insulating their homes to consume less energy).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Жаклин, 0 endorsements

“This aims to be more informed about energy policies and how we should proceed in the event of a crisis in the energy sphere as we currently have. It is good to involve those directly affected by the energy crisis.”

Атанас, 1 endorsement

“How the EU should incentivise municipalities to involve young people locally in the life of municipalities.”

DIMENSION 2: ENERGY RETROFIT

Citizens' Topic 2.1 : Take collective action

Topic ANALYSIS

In order to implement energy retrofit measures efficiently, citizens share that governments, businesses and individuals need to work together. Public authorities must provide people with the necessary information to enable them to consume better and more sustainably. Yet, it is also shared that it is up to individual citizens to act sustainably and encourage those around them to change habits (e.g. by renovating their houses and talking to neighbours to encourage them to do the same).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Matej, 5 endorsements

“Governments, businesses and individuals must work together to implement measures.”

Anthony, 7 endorsements

“Energy efficiency is partly a matter of community and collective action, so moves to promote efficiency and retrofitting should incentivise communities so people can work together and persuade others in their neighbourhood.”

Citizens' Topic 2.2 : Simplify procedures

Topic ANALYSIS

Public authorities need to make the energy retrofit process less bureaucratic and easier to access (e.g. for the installation of photovoltaic panels). They also must inform citizens of the possibilities available to them, so they can initiate the necessary procedures. In particular, they should emphasise the "white certificate", an incentive scheme to encourage people to take action and reduce energy consumption.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Danielle, 3 endorsements

“Simplify and expedite the approval and authorization process for the installation of photovoltaic systems. This can be achieved through simplifying regulatory requirements and reducing the bureaucracy associated with building permit applications.”

Agnieszka, 1 endorsement

“At the level of the EU institutions, a legislative solution should be put in place allowing for a quick and simplified way of launching programmes supporting energy efficiency for different categories of income-based housing, so that local authorities, regardless of their priorities, trigger such actions in every locality.”

Citizens' Topic 2.3 : Fight against energy-inefficient buildings

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens shared the need to ensure an increasing number of more energy-inefficient buildings. Besides, energy should be stored more efficiently. Necessary

measures must be taken, such as renovating existing buildings (private homes, public places) in order to make them less energy-intensive (e.g., by re-insulating), better insulating new buildings so they need less energy and using more surfaces to produce energy (e.g. empty roofs of parking lots for solar panels).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Etienne, 3 endorsements

“Right use of urban areas – many parking spaces, roofs of public buildings, etc. These areas could be used to power these Autark buildings (Disneyland Paris as a model).”

Alberto, 1 endorsement

“We're seeing how the White Certificate System, recently implemented in our country (but already established in others like France and Italy), will be key to boosting Energy. Efficiency and Sustainable Development across all sectors (Industrial, Services, Residential, and Transport).”

DIMENSION 3: TRAFFIC AND SOFT MOBILITY

Citizens' Topic 3.1 : Encourage sustainable transport

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens shared the need to encourage people to use more environmentally friendly forms of transport by offering efficient alternatives: by lowering the price of public transport (e.g. reducing the annual public transport season ticket in major cities, or making a train journey cheaper than a plane journey), as well as by encouraging people to use more non-polluting forms of transport, such as bicycles (developing even more cycle paths, particularly in major cities).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

João, 3 endorsements

“Choose more sustainable forms of transport, use public transport (required lower and cost-effective prices for the citizen) or electric cars (beneficial take-back campaigns).”

Marilina, 2 endorsements

“Public transport should become way more important, because it helps fight against the energy crisis, reducing traffic, and other major problems that are present all around the world.”

Citizens' Topic 3.2 : Support electric transport

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants shared that it is necessary to develop the electric transport industry: both by encouraging the expansion of electric public transport in cities to reduce emissions (e.g. by promoting the installation of trolleybuses in cities) but also by encouraging people to buy electric cars, investing in companies producing electric cars, providing subsidies and making recharging stations widely available.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Jose, 1 endorsement

“I think city public transport should be fully electric because they don't process long distance travel so they don't have to worry about finding a place to charge them.”

Franziska, 0 endorsements

“In order to encourage the increased use of electric cars both in cities and smaller towns, the charging infrastructure for them needs to be expanded and improved.”

Citizens' Topic 3.3 : Replace massively polluting means of transport

Topic ANALYSIS

To encourage people to use more environmentally friendly means of transport, citizens shared the need to better encourage the public. This could be done by taxing and replacing massively polluting means of transport (e.g. replacing old, polluting trains with electric trains), as well as introducing specific restrictions to dissuade people from using certain means of transport (e.g. introducing limits for SUVs in urban areas).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Juliette, 1 endorsement

"There are great efforts in place to decrease the use of cars and promote EVs. A greater impact on reducing the energy footprint of cities and countries is to make public transportation a more viable and low cost alternative."

Victor, 26 endorsements

"The weight and size of a vehicle directly impacts its fuel consumption, contributing to fossil fuel depletion and environment pollution. SUVs, known for their larger size, not only have higher fuel consumption rates, leading to a greater impact on climate change but also exacerbate traffic congestion and parking challenges in densely populated urban areas. Hereby, it is suggested to consider implementing increased taxation on SUVs, or to explore restrictions on their use within urban areas."

DIMENSION 4: RENEWABLE ENERGY

Citizens' Topic 4.1 : Use greener energies

Topic ANALYSIS

For citizens, it appears to be essential to promote different forms of energy that are more respectful of the environment. This counts both for public places as well as for private homes: solar energy (by installing solar panels as soon as possible, for example, on the roofs of homes), hydraulic energy (by developing power plants to produce CO₂-neutral hydroelectricity), wind energy (by creating and installing wind turbines) and finally by creating more nuclear power plants. Finally, it was shared that we would need to set up an energy redistribution system to ensure that there are no losses, and that those who don't have access to these energy sources can still use clean energy.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Hans-Werner , 0 endorsements

"Energy is present and can at most be transformed. 2. Solar energy and nuclear energy are primary energy. Nature and man make it secondary energy. Nuclear power plants must not be switched off, the safe energy must be ensured."

Ben, 0 endorsements

“We need to get away from non renewable energy and move to clean and green energy such as wind mills an solar panels. Nuclear and carbon energy is not clean enough to consider it a good long term investment.”

Citizens' Topic 4.2 : Dedicate funding to promote renewable energy

Topic ANALYSIS

For citizens, it is essential to set up dedicated funding to develop renewable energies, particularly in rural areas. It was shared that green energies are the future. It is considered vital that all citizens, whatever their means, have access to them.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Andre, 0 endorsements

“In rural smaller villages and cities, we can use little renewable energy due to a lack of capital and development.”

Roberts, 1 endorsement

“No funding for sustainable electricity mining . Lacking a system where you could get fund8ng directly from the EU, not through local governments which make absurd requirements.”

Citizens' Topic 4.3 : Reuse waste

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants emphasise that it is important to set up a comprehensive waste management system to reduce the number of landfill sites. Then, energy could be recovered from waste, for example by producing biogas from food waste.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Laura, 1 endorsement

“We need to focus on the source of energy, preferring renewable energy and trying to minimise waste.”

Zeynep, 0 endorsements

“To reduce landfills in the EU, I propose implementing a comprehensive waste management system focused on recycling and composting. This system would include incentives for businesses and households to reduce waste generation, as well as strict regulations on landfill disposal. Additionally, investing in innovative technologies for waste-to-energy conversion could further minimize the amount of waste ending up in landfills.”

DIMENSION 5: SUPPORT AND SUBSIDIES

Citizens' Topic 5.1 : Implement subsidies and enforcing strict standards

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens say that public authorities must introduce norms and obligations to encourage people to build in a more respectful way (e.g. norms to encourage the renovation of old buildings, or to regulate the construction of new buildings).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Matej, 4 endorsements

“Provide subsidies for insulation and purchase of an older family house, renewable energy sources of RES comprehensive renovation of houses More efficient use of energy.”

Monica, 4 endorsements

“Governments can also implement strict urban and construction rules before 2030 that ensure that new constructions or renovations of old buildings meet certain energy efficiency standards. These may include aspects such as appropriate insulation, energy efficient windows, lighting and heating systems. Additionally, the mandatory introduction of smart systems in new constructions can be implemented, and green buildings can benefit from reduced fees.”

Citizens' Topic 5.2 : Encourage more responsible consumption

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens call for the implementation of a bonus/malus system to encourage more efficient consumption and discourage excessive energy use. This could be done in particular by taxing some products more than others (for instance imported goods, or the use of old, polluting cars).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Arancha, 1 endorsement

“On the basis that we are all committed to sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint, I ask myself, how are citizens going to be able to change their polluting vehicles if it has a very high cost and the aid is scarce?”

Fabio, 2 endorsements

“A fruit and vegetable producer who uses the same energy as a producer of alcoholic beverages or cigarettes, must pay less, because his product is more useful to society or, otherwise, products such as cigarettes and alcohol are harmful.”

Citizens' Topic 5.3 : Invest to encourage different energy consumption

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens underline the fact that public authorities should encourage people to consume differently by investing in ecological initiatives (e.g. by installing super chargers in new collective and individual buildings to encourage people to buy electric cars).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Claude, 5 endorsements

“It would be relevant now in new individual or collective real estate constructions to install charging stations. The terminals could be covered or subsidised in part by the public authorities.”

Jose, 1 endorsement

“Nowadays buying an electric car is a trap. Most of us have no place to recharge. Cars in Spain are parked on public roads and that makes a night load impossible. The range of these vehicles leaves much to be desired. Recharging is slow and expensive in time and in travel.”

DIMENSION 6: CREATE AND STORE GREEN ENERGY

Citizens' Topic 6.1 : Improve the use and storage of green energy

Topic ANALYSIS

Citizens shared the idea to achieve greater energy efficiency by learning how to create energy from new sources, such as movement (e.g., by recovering the energy produced in gyms), or electric cars (by placing a module on their roofs to transform solar energy). It was also said that we need to learn how to better store energy in a dematerialised form (in batteries, for example), rather than creating costly, energy-consuming infrastructures.

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Léo, 2 endorsements

“Integrate solar modules into vehicles for sunny regions to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.”

Roelof, 4 endorsements

“Decentralised storage such as hydrogen, ammonia, kinetic energy or batteries offer a solution both technically and strategically (disruption).”

DIMENSION 7: SOLIDARITY

Citizens' Topic 7.1 : Demonstrate solidarity as crisis response

Topic ANALYSIS

A collective response to the ecological crisis is needed so that ecological initiatives are not reserved for just a part of the population but can be accessed by everyone. Citizens shared that the European Union and public authorities must support the poorest and the youngest parts of the population so that they can have access to more costly ecological initiatives (e.g. subsidies to encourage the installation of solar panels, purchase of electric cars, reduce students' electricity bills by adjusting rates to those of ordinary households).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Effie, 1 endorsement

“The many (poorest) citizens have already exhausted all the saving measures they can afford. The EU should focus on self-generation for poor and medium-sized households. Introduce strict guidelines for Member States to prioritise self-production of households.”

Anthony, 7 endorsements

“Energy efficiency is partly a matter of community and collective action, so moves to promote efficiency and retrofiting should incentivise communities so people can work together and persuade others in their neighbourhood.”

DIMENSION 8: HEATING

Citizens' Topic 8.1 : Use heating systems more efficiently

Topic ANALYSIS

According to the participants, it is important to better apply standing rules and give recommendations on heating. This would avoid inefficient use of heating systems leading to overconsumption (e.g. numerous laws, standards and recommendations concerning the use of heating systems already exist and help to avoid oversized appliances, poor maintenance or poor control of systems). Moreover, it appears to be necessary to renew low-energy heating systems (e.g. aerothermia, geothermal, biomass).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Alin, 3 endorsements

“In experience, many heating and air conditioning systems are poorly used by oversizing, lack of maintenance or steering. most often 10 to 15 % of energy savings are achieved without investment, regardless of the energy used. Yet many tools exist (legislative, normative, guides, recommendations, advice,...) but their application is not systematic. Let's apply these rules correctly.”

Ana Maria, 4 endorsements

“Appliances with a more efficient energy rating. Renewable energy-based heating systems: aérothermia, geothermal, biomass.”

Citizens' Topic 8.2 : Implement district heating solutions

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants share that it is important to reduce energy costs and expenses by setting up, where possible, a district heating system. It would allow the heating of a neighbourhood, a town or a wider area (e.g. by using underground pipes for sustainable heating and cooling or replacing boilers with efficient heat pumps).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Federico, 9 endorsements

“Implement where possible district heating solutions.”

Ingrid, 0 endorsements

“So moving away from fossil fuels means switching to heat pumps first, including larger radiators to reduce the flow temperature and improving the control of the system. 15,000 kWh of natural gas that way affordable can be converted into 3,200 kWh of electricity.”

DIMENSION 9: LIGHTING

Citizens' Topic 9.1 : Change lighting habits

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants shared the idea of improving energy efficiency and lighting in public buildings and homes. This could be done by changing the way that lamps and lighting systems are set up and used (e.g. generalising the use of low-energy LED or natural skylights). Other examples that were mentioned are stopping the use of incandescent lamps and turning off lights in public places at night to save electricity.)

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Ana Maria, 4 endorsements

“Homes have to improve energy efficiency, lighting: using LED bulbs or natural skylights.”

Haoyue, 0 endorsements

“Now I find that many light bulbs in public places are not turned off. I urge everyone to turn off the lights at night to save electricity.”

DIMENSION 10: GREEN AND RESPECTFUL SPACES

Citizens' Topic 10.1 : Respect landscapes

1. Respect landscapes

Topic ANALYSIS

Participants share that it is necessary to continue deploying green energy. However, it is raised that this must be done in a way which does not impact landscapes (e.g. by generalising the installation of wind turbines).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Stefano, 2 endorsements

“The energy transition is vital for tackling climate change. However, no energy transition can be imposed. The presence of wind or photovoltaic plants in the landscape cannot be imposed where citizens and towns have not expressed themselves in the sense of welcoming these infrastructures. It is essential to respect the Aarhus Convention, to which the European countries and the European Union itself are party.”

Citizens' Topic 10.2 : Green cities

Topic ANALYSIS

The citizens' idea is to create cities with more greenery, to reduce temperatures and thus fight against global warming (e.g. some cities have decided to plant a lot of trees, which has enabled them to gain a few degrees during heat waves) but also to exploit some places to plant trees (e.g. unused rooftops in cities).

Showcase CONTRIBUTIONS

Federico, 9 endorsements

“Drastically reduce beton/concrete for city streets and places planting instead grass and trees to decrease the city warming and the use of cooling devices (especially in summer).”

Charline, 0 endorsements

“I want more nature corner on the city, to breathe, and capture pollution for exemple and also for a place to hide from the sun”

5. CONCLUSIONS

The Citizens' Engagement Platform on Energy Efficiency was an important milestone to enable online **multilingual citizen engagement** at the European level. As outlined above, it has significantly advanced the understanding of the **collective vision for enhancing energy efficiency** across the EU, throughout the consultation period, from February 15 to May 31, 2024. Combining the online contributions with the deliberations of the citizen panel has enriched the dialogue, it ensured that diverse perspectives were considered in shaping the final insights.

The engagement process revealed a **strong alignment amongst participants around several core dimensions**: awareness, energy retrofit, traffic and mobility, renewable energy, support and subsidies, creation and storage of green energy, solidarity, heating, lighting, and green spaces. Citizens emphasised the need for **practical, community-driven solutions** alongside **systemic changes**. Key themes that emerged include the necessity for simplified procedures for energy retrofitting, greater public investment in renewable energy, and the expansion of electric transport infrastructure.

In summary, this consultation has not only captured a wide array of ideas and suggestions from European citizens but has also **reinforced the need for a united, action-oriented approach to energy efficiency**. It is evident that while technological advancements and regulatory frameworks are crucial for participants, the engagement and empowerment of citizens remain fundamental to achieving long-term sustainability goals.

It is important to highlight that the results discussed above cannot be considered to be representative. Yet, they allow for **novel ideas** on the one hand, and a **general sense and feeling on citizens priorities** on the other hand. As Europe moves forward on energy efficiency, these insights can be instrumental in shaping policies that are not only effective but also **widely supported by the public**. It would ensure that the transition to a more energy-efficient Europe is both inclusive and sustainable.