

EEP Energy Efficiency Index: Winter Survey 2019/20

Majority of companies strive for climate neutrality

The Energy Efficiency Index EEI has risen again slightly as of winter 2019. In particular, the index value for energy productivity has risen by 0.3 points over the last 12 months. In contrast, corporate investments in efficiency measures and the future importance of energy efficiency have fallen slightly.

Since 2013, the Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production EEP at the University of Stuttgart has been conducting a semi-annual survey of current and planned activities of German industry on energy efficiency. The index on energy efficiency is gathered in cooperation with the German Energy Agency (dena), the Federation of German Industries (BDI), the Fraunhofer IPA, TÜV Rheinland and a number of other partners.

Industry's expectations regarding the importance of energy efficiency, investment in energy efficiency measures and energy productivity are still higher than actual efforts. "So while companies are preparing for further efforts in the future," says Professor Alexander Sauer, Executive Director of the Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production EEP, "things are getting tight - if we still want to achieve the *Energiewende* (German energy transition)."

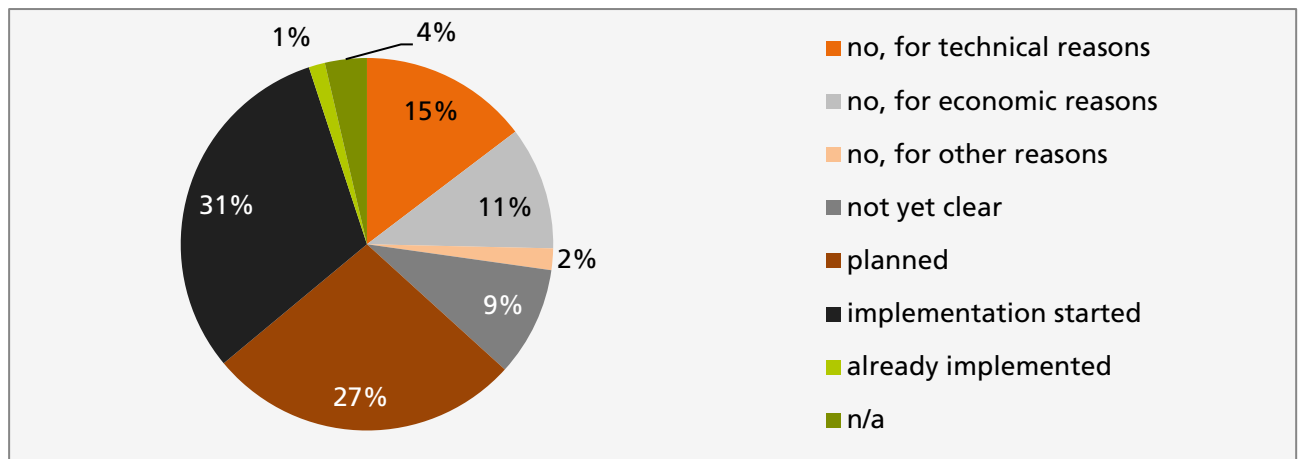


Figure 1: Are you planning to make your company net-climate-neutral? (n=852)

Just under 6 out of 10 companies aim to make their company net-climate-neutral in future. Half of them have already started their implementation. In contrast to many other measures, which are alternately queried in the Energy Efficiency Index, this applies to **all** company sizes - from the smallest to the largest companies.

It is more the technical than economic barriers that prevent companies from striving for CO₂ neutrality. This can be the case, for example, when production processes that are currently difficult or impossible to operate in a CO₂-neutral way, such as cement production, try to become CO₂-neutral.

Increasing efficiency has top priority

What measures do companies take to reduce the CO₂ footprint of their company or products? The most common measures mentioned here are measures to increase energy efficiency. Self-generated renewable energy and the purchase of renewable energies follow at some distance.

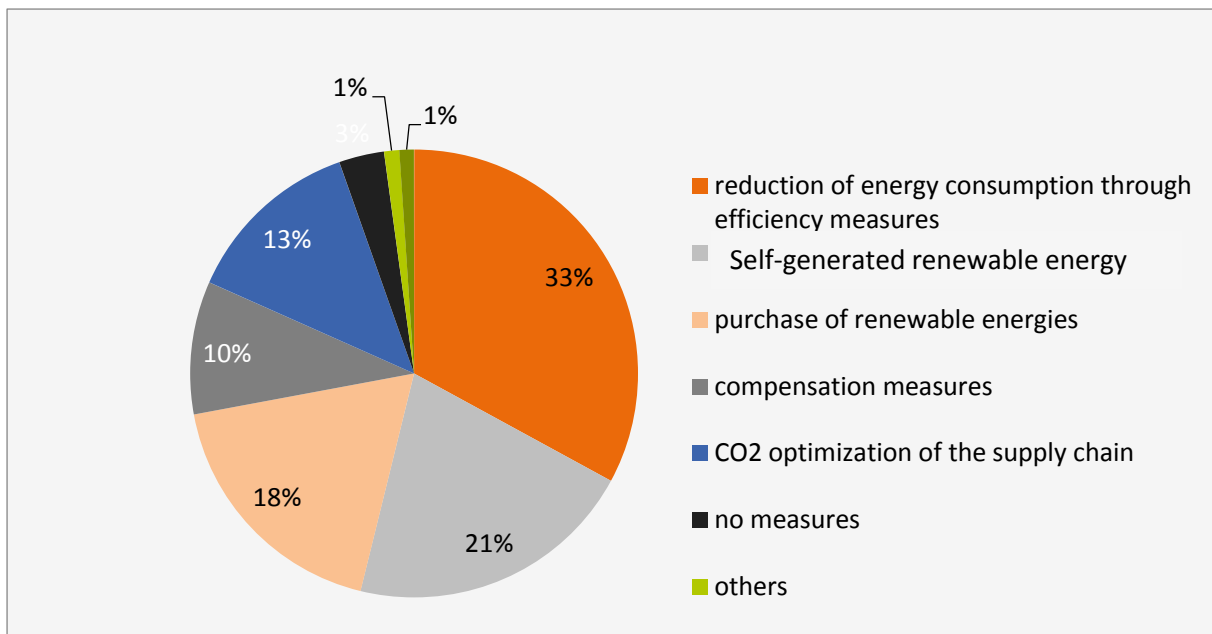


Figure 2: What measures do you take to reduce the CO₂ footprint of your company or your products? (n'=1718, n=858)

Even though "Efficiency First" was announced by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi) for the *Energiewende* (German Energy transition) in 2015, now the climate debate seems to be giving rise to a new dynamic among companies.

"In fact, CO₂ neutrality can only be achieved with increased efforts in the area of energy efficiency," says Sauer.

In view of the future price of CO₂, the industrial sector is facing particular challenges. It is therefore in the interest of these companies to rapidly push ahead with their own CO₂ emission reductions until the price comes into force in 2021.

With the increase in the price of CO₂, SMEs that have not yet been subject to European Emissions Trading (ETS) are also facing particular challenges. This applies in particular to companies with high energy requirements, such as foundries, hardening shops and paper manufacturers. In addition, the decarbonisation plans of many large companies are increasing the demands on the supply chain. "For these reasons in particular, we believe that accompanying support measures are necessary, such as an unbureaucratic reimbursement of decarbonisation investments in the amount of the CO₂ levy paid," says Professor Alexander Sauer, Executive Director of EEP.

Text and further pictures can be downloaded from: www.eep.uni-stuttgart.de

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