

# Local electrification & local jobs, making the energy transition happen for all Europeans

Electrical contractors embody the Green Deal's aim to put Europe on track for climate-neutrality while fostering sustainable economic prosperity and sovereignty. With close to **2 million professionals**, electrical contractors strive to expand their workforce to meet the **rising demand for electrified technologies, leading to local, stable and high-quality job creation across Europe's regions**. They are at the forefront of the energy transition, bringing electrification and digitalisation to end-users, in consumers' homes as well as to businesses and industries.

The Green Deal has set Europe on the right course yet is leaving the next EU leaders with a significant responsibility. They'll be tasked with making its ambition **acceptable** to citizens and consumers with increased welfare and local **job opportunities** that leave no one behind, ultimately ensuring the **efficient** implementation of agreed policies.

Over the next legislative cycle, EU policymakers will have the opportunity to devise the policy framework that will enable Europeans to achieve our common ambition. Every day, in every corner of Europe, Electrical contractors are already playing their part, working to phase out fossil fuels, increase the share of homegrown renewables and make our energy consumption more efficient.

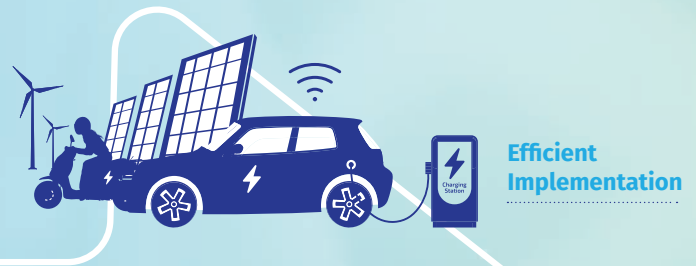
However, SMEs increasingly struggle to find enough qualified workers to hire, while consumers face longer waiting periods for clean energy installations. This means there are vacancies to be filled and bottom-up demand for electrification takes longer to be answered.

## EuropeOn calls on policymakers to:

1. Set clear course towards clean electrification.
2. Champion technical education and careers for the energy transition by investing in a sufficient and fully skilled workforce.



Together, we can make Europe stronger,  
greener, more competitive, & more sovereign



Efficient  
Implementation

# 1. Clean electrification is the efficient tool to address climate, economy, health, and consumer needs



Acceptable Energy  
Transition

Local Job  
Opportunities



Europe cannot be bogged down in hypothetical technological developments. Electrification is already a proven solution and an EU Electrification Action Plan, asserting the role of electrification in the energy transition, would provide the vital predictability European companies and consumers need to reach our adopted objectives. It will enable stakeholders to plan ahead for investments in their business, workforce, or assets, and **make the energy transition more affordable and desirable for all end-users by mainstreaming electrification.**

In addition, a set of **enabling factors** such as (carbon) pricing, taxation, and primary energy factors, especially in buildings, must be geared to facilitate electrification instead of postponing it.

Furthermore, **electrification should go hand in hand with digitalisation.** It will enable a more efficient use of electricity and more consumer value but requires advances on the relevant hardware, infrastructure, software and standards.

Electrification is the **best way forward to implement Green Deal objectives** and stands to bring multiple and far-reaching **benefits to European citizens:**

⚡ A vast amount of local, stable, and high-quality jobs will be created (*see part 2*).

⚡ Electrification is Europe's homegrown solution to phase out fossil fuels and, in turn, phase out many threats our citizens face: acceleration of climate change, over-reliance on energy imports, high volatility of energy prices, and thousands of premature deaths due to (air) pollution.





Together, we can make Europe stronger,  
greener, more competitive, & more sovereign

## 2. Building the right workforce for an efficient, unanimous, and prosperous energy transition



Efficient  
Implementation



Acceptable Energy  
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**The energy transition needs makers**, professionals who can deploy electrified solutions on the ground and on rooftops. For electrical contractors to fulfil this central role, the top priority is tackling the lack of adequately qualified workers, rooted in the **poor image of technical education and careers**. Incoming policymakers must see to it that the EU's objectives and the Electrification Action Plan address the insufficient availability of the implementing workforce. But this challenge does come with **significant opportunities**.

For electrical contractors alone, the installation of solar panels, electric vehicle charging points and storage batteries could create up to 400,000 jobs by 2030 which **cannot be delocalised** outside the EU and are needed across regions, at the very local level.

Addressing the technical workforce gap can also **alleviate the recent citizen discontent** partly stemming from the energy transition. Citizens must be made aware of the varied job opportunities in electrification and the high demand for technical profiles in all regions. This will frame electrification as a new brand of industrialisation that improves people's daily lives and will, in turn, build trust in a European energy transition.

We urge policymakers to **revive the status of technical education and careers**. This includes investing in **full training curricula**. Indeed, only fully skilled workers can deliver quality installations that abide by safety and efficiency standards all the while providing attractive and long-term careers. Further, more support is needed for currently active workers to upskill and for SMEs to train their workers and take on apprentices. The immediacy of investments in our human resources is paramount in order to avoid any bottlenecks down the line.



**400,000**  
new jobs  
by 2030\*

\* Job Potential Study



# Policy asks:

## Pillar 1: Clean electrification



To harness the benefits of electrification, EU policymakers must:

1. **Release an Electrification Action Plan to assert the way forward for our energy system**
  - ⌚ Adopt an electrification target of **35% of final energy consumption by 2030** and emphasise how buildings can be electrified to meet EU decarbonisation targets, while alleviating energy poverty and increasing consumer benefits.
  - ⌚ Apply an **“Electrification test”** to all EU funding. This will ensure the most appropriate prioritisation of European funds (skills funding, consumer incentives, IPCEIs, ...).
2. **Mobilise enabling factors to foster electrification**
  - ⌚ Ensure pricing, taxation and primary energy factors **incentivise electricity over fossil fuels**.
  - ⌚ Keep incentives stable to provide more **predictability** to consumers and businesses.
3. **Further support the digitalisation of the energy sector**
  - ⌚ Ensure **wider digitalisation** is enabled by the necessary infrastructure, such as smart meters and gigabit infrastructure.
  - ⌚ **Simplify data access**, interoperability of devices, open software, and cyber resilience schemes so as to foster emerging business models for electrification.

## Pillar 2: Workforce & skills



The quantity aspect - EU policymakers must first address the lack of clean tech heroes

1. **Address the gap between available and needed workers**
  - ⌚ Make the Net Zero Industry Act’s **Net Zero Platform** an assertive and central apparatus of the EU’s energy and climate governance, harnessing the involvement of Member State representatives, Commission, EU Parliament, and relevant stakeholders.
  - ⌚ The Platform should, as proposed, **continuously assess the availability of relevant workforces**, building on reporting obligations in the Energy Efficiency Directive.
2. **Attract enough workers to technical professions and education**
  - ⌚ Act on workforce assessments with **corrective measures at EU and national level**.
  - ⌚ **Gear EU funding towards the Net Zero workforce with a focus on technical profiles** and support awareness raising, with due attention to the gender dimension.

The quality aspect - EU policymakers must provide for full and modern skillsets

1. **Secure fully qualified and expert operatives**
  - ⌚ Use EU funding to support **full training curricula, including apprenticeships**, by making it more directly accessible to SMEs and VET schools.
2. **Facilitate training and upskilling of current Net Zero workers**
  - ⌚ Ease access to EU funding for upskilling for **SMEs and independent workers**.
  - ⌚ The Net Zero Platform should **work with local actors** (Public Employment Services) to ensure EU funding actually goes to the workers and SMEs implementing EU targets.

