

EU's energy evolution: milestones in sustainability and resilience.

The EU's transformative energy journey has seen a reduction in fossil fuel imports, a surge in renewables, and strategic planning. As such, it is emerging as a global leader in sustainability and resilience.



In the wake of the War in Ukraine, the EU has achieved [significant milestones](#) in its energy transition, demonstrating a commitment to reducing reliance on Russian fossil fuels. A comprehensive set of measures has been implemented, encompassing **strategic reductions in coal, oil, and gas imports**, while simultaneously embracing renewable energy sources.

The EU's concerted efforts have led to a decrease in the importation of Russian fossil fuels. [Coal imports have been phased out, while oil imports witnessed a 90% reduction.](#) Perhaps most noteworthy is the staggering **drop in gas imports**, plummeting [from 155 billion cubic meters in 2021 to approximately 80 billion cubic meters in 2022.](#)

Energy Efficiency and Conservation

The EU's commitment to energy efficiency and conservation is evident in the reduction in gas demand by over 18% compared to the previous five years. This equates to approximately [53 billion cubic meters of gas saved](#). Strategic **management of gas storage facilities**, with [over 98% occupancy](#), and three rounds of joint gas purchases by the EU Energy Platform have played pivotal roles in ensuring stability.

An [important regulation on gas storage](#) has been introduced, delineating specific milestones for member states to incrementally fill their storage facilities throughout the year. Notably, the International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director acknowledged the EU's gas storage as being completely full, a testament to the **effectiveness of proactive measures in regulating and managing the gas supply**.

The EU's commitment to green transformation is evident in various initiatives. These include the establishment of **energy efficiency zones**, substantial investments in wind energy, and ambitious projects involving **large-scale lithium-ion batteries**, aquifer energy storage systems, and hydrogen energy conversion. These initiatives underscore the EU's determination to transition towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly energy future.



Challenges and Preparedness

Despite these accomplishments, the EU appreciates the challenges that lie ahead and emphasizes the [need for continued vigilance and infrastructure maintenance](#). The Directorate-General for Energy continues to monitor and work towards the sustainability and resilience of the EU's evolving energy landscape.

On EU competitiveness, emphasis is placed on the [Critical Raw Materials Act](#) and the 'Competitiveness' challenge in the transition. The EU aims to work with diverse international suppliers for critical raw materials. The EU is successfully navigating energy brought on by the war in Ukraine. The Critical Raw Materials Act ensures diversification, while efforts to combat energy poverty intensify. Unforeseen positive outcomes include [Germany's swift transition away from Russian gas](#) and unprecedented **member state solidarity**.

As the EU continues its drive towards sustainable energy, it positions itself at the forefront of the **global efforts to combat climate change** and to ensure energy security.

