



Bundesamt
für Wirtschaft und
Ausfuhrkontrolle



Poverty - Energy Efficiency Measures in Germany

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Structure

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1. Overview and Background



1.1 The German Approach to the Concept of Energy Poverty

- Energy poverty may stem from different reasons, e.g.
 - poor financial situation of the households concerned,
 - the energy standard of residential buildings and the equipment of household appliances,
 - inefficient behaviour,
 - rising energy prices.
- Germany has currently no official definition of energy poverty.
- Germany follows a comprehensive approach to address poverty, which not only concentrates on energy issues but roots in social policy.



1.2 Social Policy and Poverty Reduction

- In Germany the prevention of energy poverty is part of social policies, which address poverty issues:
 - If a household needs financial support to cover basic costs of living (e.g. including costs for keeping their home warm), they are able to receive support pursuant to the second or twelfth book of the social code.
 - Basic needs are being covered by social policies, which range from:
 - flat-rate for standard needs (e.g. for households, which fall under the basic income support for job-seekers legislation).
 - coverage of a part of the energy costs (e.g. for households, which are eligible under housing benefits (Wohngeld))
- There are financially weak households, however, which are not eligible for social policies, because their income is slightly over the thresholds defined by social policy.



2. Energy Efficiency Measures – Low-income Households



2.1 Energy Saving Check (I)

Aim

- Provide assistance to low income households for lower energy consumption

Type of Measure:

- Advisory and Support Program

Funding and Administration:

- The measure is funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection as part of the National Climate Initiative
- It is administered by the Caritas and the association for energy and climate protection agencies (Bundesverband für Energie- und Klimaschutzagenturen)



2.1 Energy Saving Check (II)

Concept:

- Trained energy-saving “helpers” are sent to financially weak households, which receive basic income support for job-seekers, housing benefits or social assistance.
- These “helpers” provide different kinds of support:
 - Performance of an electricity saving check
 - Provision of information on how to reduce energy consumption
 - Immediate action (e.g. installing LEDs)
 - Subsidy for energy efficient refrigerators (100 Euro)
 - Check of energy savings achieved

Energy-saving “helpers”

- Mostly long-term unemployed receive theoretical and practical instructions from qualified trainers from regional energy agencies.



2.1 Energy Saving Check (III)

Conclusion:

- Around 350,000 low-income households have ~~so far~~ taken part in the Electricity Savings Check between 2009 and 2019, reducing their energy costs by an average of 172 Euro per year.
- If an old refrigerator is replaced by a new one, households are able to reduce their energy costs by an average of another 103 Euro per year
- Energy savings to date add up to more than 4,8 PJ and over 0,5 million tonnes of GHG equivalents (as of 2019).



2.2 Energy Counselling for low-income households (I)

Aim

- Provide information and counseling to households for lower energy consumption

Type of Measure:

- Advisory program

Funding and Administration:

- The measure is funded by the Federal Ministry for Energy and Climate Protection
- It is administered by different actors - e.g. consumer centers (Verbraucherzentralen)



2.2 Energy Counselling for low-income households (II)

Concept:

- Provision of different counselling options for households
 - Basis-Check
 - Detail-Check
 - Buildings-Check
 - Heating-Check
 - Solar-Check
 - Suitability Check for Heating
- As of 01.01.2019 these programmes are free of charge for low-income households

3. Conclusion



Conclusion and Outlook

- In Germany some measures aim at improving energy efficiency in vulnerable households.
- These measures primarily count as social policy measures and try to address poverty issues as a whole, not specifically energy poverty
- Based on the new EED-Recast energy poverty becomes more important in EU legislation. This has implications for Germany.
- There are many households, which are not eligible for support measures from social policy, but are not able to afford high energy prices or investments in energy efficiency measures

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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