



Forms of support

Forms of support and funding of the energy consumer

Due to the lack of a legal definition of energy poverty, it is difficult to identify financial instruments that will be addressed to those affected.

Poor energy people can apply for funding, which is granted mainly based on the income criterion - only those who meet the conditions defining (generally and imprecisely) the sensitive recipient. It is also possible to distinguish financial resources that are not dedicated only to the energy poor people, but to a much wider group.

Financial resources addressed to people of low incomes

Housing and energy allowance

The housing allowance is intended for vulnerable consumers, i.e. persons who can best be described as persons in a difficult economic situation and not necessarily affected by energy poverty. The amount of funding depends on the income of household members, the number of household members, as well as the size of the flat per capita. The housing allowance is intended to ensure that the expenses for housing fees do not exceed a certain level. This is help which the municipality (through social assistance centers) grants in different heights to the poorest inhabitants.

The energy supplement is, in a sense, a complement to the housing allowance. Energy sensitive customers may receive an energy allowance if they meet the conditions for receiving a housing allowance and will be a party to a comprehensive agreement or contract for the sale of electricity concluded with an energy company and reside in the place of electricity supply.

The commune head, mayor or a city president at the request of the sensitive recipient of electricity grants the energy allowance. A copy of the comprehensive agreement or contract for the sale of electricity and a copy of the decision shall accompany the request on granting the housing allowance.

Designated benefit

This is an optional benefit awarded to meet every day needs, and in particular to cover part or all of the costs of food, medicine and treatment, but also fuel, as well as repairs and renovations in apartments. It is intended for vulnerable consumers who meet a given income criterion. Some of these people are certainly affected by energy poverty.

Electricity allowance

Pensioners who have veteran status, as well as their widows and widowers, can also be granted a lump sum, i.e. funding in the amount of 50% of tariff payments for the use of electricity, gas and heat for domestic purposes.

Support programs

In some cities, such as Kraków, Warsaw and Wrocław, local support programs are also in force, as part of which many different investments and methods of heating are supported, including replacement of boilers. Local support programs, such as Low Emission Reduction Programs (PONE), are targeted at people who incur increased heating costs of premises connected with permanent change of heating system based on solid fuels to one of the pro-ecological systems. Applications for funding from this type of programs contain procedures and criteria that must be met by those applying for this type of support.

Financial resources addressed to a wider group of people

Thermal efficiency improvement bonus

The thermal efficiency improvement bonus is a public support program aimed at increasing the energy efficiency of buildings. It is awarded by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego as part of the Thermal efficiency improvement and Renovation Fund. The condition for receiving a thermal efficiency improvement bonus concerns the fulfillment of technical requirements supported by an energy audit. The bonus consists in an individual, partial refund of the cost of loans for thermal efficiency improvement.

Local support systems

Due to the policy aimed at low-emission economy and improvement of air quality in municipalities and cities, local programs are more and more often supporting actions in this area. These include projects on the replacement of heat sources, buildings' thermal efficiency improvement without or with the replacement of heat sources, the use of renewable energy sources, including solar collectors, photovoltaic panels or heat pumps. Very often, such programs are launched because of implementing the provisions of the Low Emission Limits Programs, as well as part of the previously described Local Support Programs.

