



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY
Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe

**SAVING WATER
& ENERGY
BY RESTORING
NATURE IN
URBAN AREAS**
**STATEMENT
ON NATURE
RESTORATION
LAW**

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY STATEMENT ON NATURE RESTORATION LAW

The European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE) welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a Nature Restoration Law and supports the ambition presented by the ENVI rapporteur in the European Parliament to increase the restoration objective and set higher targets for the restoration of terrestrial, coastal, freshwater, marine, and urban ecosystems.

Nature restoration, ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity loss are critical issues for the European Union due to their impact on the environment, human health, and the economy. It poses a significant challenge to the EU's sustainability goals, promotion of green growth, and achievement of a climate-neutral society.

The proposal includes some provisions that can promote the realisation of the water-energy nexus i.e. the ability to simultaneously save water and energy.

The European Alliance to Save Energy supports Article 6 on the restoration of urban ecosystems. The article proposes that the Member States must ensure that there is no net loss of urban green space by 2030 compared to 2021, and increase the total national area of urban green space in cities, towns, and suburbs of about 3% by 2040 and 5% by 2050 (baseline 2021).

In addition, the proposal requires the integration of urban green space into existing and new buildings, including through renovations and renewals.

Through the restoration of urban ecosystems and integration of green infrastructure in the urban areas, not only we can mitigate the heat island effect and save energy in buildings during summer time but we can play also a role in smart and efficient rainwater management. Researches show, for example, that 10m² of green roof insulate buildings and leads to direct savings of 63 kWh/year in the summer while retaining on average 6,5m³/year of rainwater which indirectly saves 6.25 kWh/year i.e. the energy that would have been used to treat that rain at urban wastewater treatment plant level.

We support also Article 11 which proposes the introduction of National Restoration Plans. The proposal requires Member States to identify synergies between nature restoration efforts and climate change mitigation. Member States should also include an overview of the interaction of the measures in the national restoration plan and the national energy and climate plan (NECPs) as coordinating restoration plans and NECPs will allow synergies and integrated approaches to achieve environmental and climate objectives, and facilitate monitoring and reporting.

Green urban infrastructure and permeable surfaces in cities, such as urban parks, green roofs, and green walls, can contribute to saving energy and restoring nature in cities while supporting biodiversity, improving air and water quality, and providing recreational opportunities for urban dwellers, especially in densely populated areas.

The Nature Restoration Law has a significant importance in achieving Union climate goals and should be considered as another element of the package of legislation aiming to promote the deployment of energy efficiency technologies.

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The European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE) aims to advance the energy efficiency agenda in Europe. The Alliance allows some of the world's leading multinational companies to join environmental campaigners and a crossparty group of Members of the European Parliament.

EU-ASE business members have operations across the 27 Member States of the European Union, employ over 340.000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of €115 billion.

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