



Europe and Central Asia Energy Knowledge Network News

Sep/Oct 2025 Issue

Utility Scale Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Buildings
Communities of Practice

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you to the first issue of Energy Knowledge Network News. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Energy Communities of Practice (CoP). Each issue will spotlight upcoming events, highlight key network members, and bring you World Bank and industry updates. We hope this becomes a practical resource for your work and an invitation to engage more closely with our #ECAEnergyFuture community.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Gil, Energy Practice Manager, ECA, World Bank

News & Activities

Key Upcoming Dates

Utility Scale RE CoP

- **30 Sep** - Energy Storage for Power System Support
- **23 Oct** - Private Sector Perspectives on RE Incentives
- **30 Oct** - BESS Financing and Procurement

EE in Buildings CoP

- **13 Oct** - Demystifying ESCOs and Energy Performance Contracts

See the [ECA Energy CoP Events Page](#) for full listing and registration.

Past CoP Events

[1st ECA Energy Knowledge Forum](#) - Gathering of 110 government officials and technical experts from 21 countries plus development partners, hosted in Türkiye in June, fostering peer-to-peer learning and launch of the first two CoPs focused on utility scale RE and EE in buildings.

[Fundamentals of Variable RE Grid Integration](#) - First deep dive learning event for the CoP members, providing a technical foundation for RE grid integration, and designed according to needs expressed by CoP members.

[RE Incentives & Tenders Series: Reducing Risks to Attract Investment](#) - First of three events highlighting government actions to mitigate risks, with examples of auctions, results, and adjustments in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

[Advancing Buildings Energy Performance Standards](#) - Event led by the Buildings Performance Institute Europe on the recast EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive with examples from Georgia and Croatia. (Sign Up/Log In to [Connect4Impact](#) required to view event materials)



New Briefs



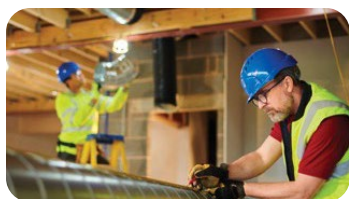
World Bank Expands Partnership with Türkiye on Transmission Grid

In August, the World Bank approved financing for the Türkiye Transforming Power Transmission System Project, as part of the Renewable Energy Scale-Up in Europe and Central Asia ([ECARES](#)) Program to help Türkiye modernize and expand its transmission infrastructure to accommodate large-scale solar and wind generation. [Learn more](#)



Uzbekistan's Novel Integrated Solar PV Plus Storage Project

Anticipated to come online later this year, a 250-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic plant with an integrated 63-MW battery energy storage system (BESS) represents a new milestone of integrated solar plus storage in Central Asia. Leveraging World Bank Group and other support, the project attracted private sector participation via a transparent and competitive tender from the government, with the IFC as the lead transaction advisor. The BESS component will improve the flexibility of the power system, providing greater security of supply. [Learn more](#)



New EU Building Rules: Zero-Emission Standard by 2030

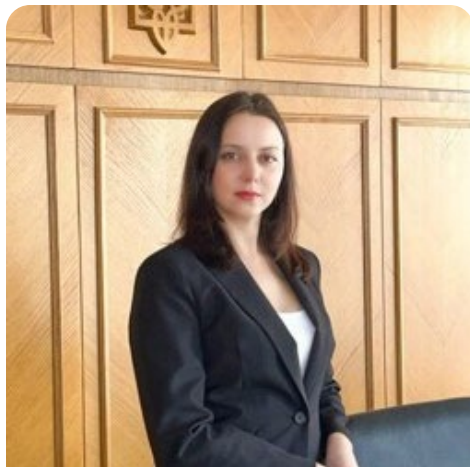
The revised EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive sets a bold path: all new buildings must be zero-emission (ZEB) by 2030, with public buildings leading by 2028. It also sets minimum energy renovation standards, tackles lifecycle carbon impacts, mandates solar readiness, and phases out fossil-fuel boiler support. Want to learn from EU best practices and design ambitious building standards? Join our online event on September 18th as listed on the ECA Energy CoP Events Page referenced above.

CoP Member Spotlight



[Ms. Tamar Sabelashvili](#)

Featured speaker on Georgia's energy efficiency activities on Sep 18 (EE) webinar



[Ms. Olena Golembivska](#)

Featured speaker on Ukraine's experience with RE auctions & targets on Sep 18 (RE) webinar



[Mr. Alexandr Ten](#)

Featured speaker on Kazakhstan's experience with RE auctions on Sep 18 (RE) webinar

Did You Know?

Did you know that **Bulgaria** met **37% of its electricity demand** with renewables in the last 6 months?

From March thru August 2025, solar PV and hydropower topped the generation from renewable sources.

Source: [IEA Real-Time Electricity Tracker](#)

Did you know that **Poland** is supporting energy efficiency and clean heating upgrades in over **2.5 million** single-family buildings through its **€30 billion** Clean Air Program?

One of Europe's largest anti-smog initiatives it's expected to save up to 20,000 lives per year by 2030.

Source: [World Bank Blog](#)

Did you know that **electricity losses** in utility distribution systems in the ECA region range from **less than 5% to more than 20%**?

A World Bank initiative to help utilities measure performance can inform decision-making.

Source: [World Bank Group Utility Performance and Behavior Today \(UPBEAT\)](#)

Key Links

- [Europe and Central Asia Energy Community of Practice Events](#)
- [ECA Utility Scale RE Community of Practice](#) (Sign Up/Log In to [Connect4Impact](#) required)
- [ECA EE in Buildings Community of Practice](#) (Sign Up/Log In to [Connect4Impact](#) required)
- [World Bank Group Energy Future of Europe and Central Asia](#)

About the Energy Knowledge Network and CoPs

The Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Energy Knowledge Network is a new platform that connects energy sector stakeholders across the region, fostering collaboration and the exchange of technical, policy, and financial solutions. Within the Network, the Communities of Practice (CoPs) are:

- **Utility Scale RE CoP** (managed by Erica Zell, ezell@worldbank.org)
- **EE in Buildings CoP** (managed by Marina Olshanskaya, molshanskaya@worldbank.org).

