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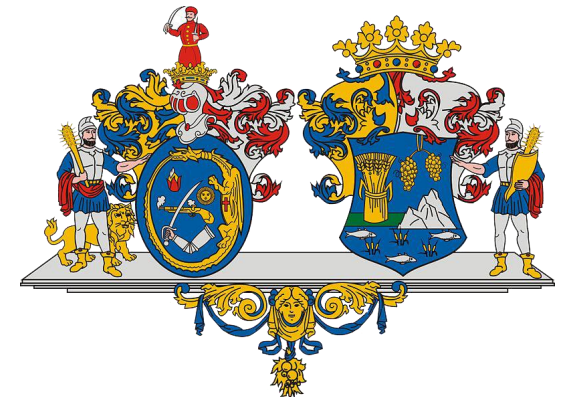
Public policies for access to renewable energy in collective housing

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Facts

- Residential buildings are the biggest emitters in Hungary
- Energy assessments for residential buildings are missing
- Strict historic preservation regulations
- Hungary has implemented several public policies aimed at promoting access to renewable energy in collective housing



Key factor of any energy upgrade is **mapping** the **Data** of the building
In most cases, this information is **not available**



The **overly restrictive** application of historic preservation conditions can be a serious administrative obstacle to the installation of solar panels.

Renewable Energy Support Scheme (METÁR)

- Hungary's METÁR scheme provides financial support for renewable energy projects, including those implemented in collective housing. This scheme aims to increase the share of renewable energy sources in Hungary's energy mix.
- The METÁR (Market-Based Renewable Support Scheme) is a key government initiative that provides financial support for renewable energy projects, including those in condominiums. Under this scheme, collective housing projects, such as apartment buildings or housing complexes can apply for funding to install renewable energy systems such as solar panels, geothermal heating, or biomass boilers. The scheme aims to increase the share of renewable energy in Hungary's energy mix and promote sustainable development.



Energy Performance Contracting (EPC)

- Energy Performance Contracting is another mechanism used in Hungary to improve energy efficiency and promote renewable energy. Under EPC, energy service companies (ESCOs) implement energy-saving measures and renewable energy installations in buildings, such as collective housing, and are compensated through the resulting energy savings.



Subsidies and Grants

- The Hungarian government offers subsidies and grants to promote renewable energy adoption in various sectors, including collective housing.
- These subsidies can significantly reduce the upfront costs of installing renewable energy technologies, making them more accessible to housing associations and collective housing developments.



Net Metering and Feed-in Tariffs



- Hungary has implemented net metering and feed-in tariff programs that benefit renewable energy producers, including those in collective housing.
- Net metering allows surplus energy generated by renewable sources (like solar panels) to be exported to the grid, with compensation provided to the producer.
- Feed-in tariffs provide a guaranteed price for renewable energy fed into the grid, encouraging investment in renewable energy systems.

Consultancy

- Currently, there is a broader, state-supported one-stop shop (OSS) for energy efficiency, the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers, which provides energy advice to households and small businesses.



EU Funding and Support

- Hungary also leverages funding and support from the European Union (EU) for renewable energy initiatives. Through EU programs and grants, collective housing projects can access additional resources to implement renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency.
- RRF - Recovery and Resilience Plan
 - RePowerEU chapter: complements the Recovery and Resilience Instrument package and contains more detailed energy efficiency plans. A separate measure is the energy efficiency improvement of residential buildings, under a residential tender with a budget of 224 billion HUF (~573 million EUR). It is foreseen that 20,000 condominiums and housing cooperatives could benefit from the RRF loan by 2026 in a combined scheme (50% non-reimbursable subsidy, 50% soft loan), which is significantly below the 100-150 thousand per year needed to meet the climate commitments.



Conclusions

- There is enthusiasm for the installation of renewable energies, especially solar energy, as far as the capacities and professionalism of the municipality allow.
- The solar map produced as part of the "Budapest Powered by the Sun" project, which shows the coverage of all Budapest rooftops and the potential electricity production (<https://budapest.hu/zold-budapest/klima-es-kornyezetvedelem/nappal-hajtva>) of installed solar panels, was a step forward in this respect.
- Many municipalities are keen to participate in the creation of an energy community, but this is also problematic due to the lack of a regulatory and support framework - progress can be expected in this area once conditions are more favourable.
- In this context, the creation of a legal framework for community energy sharing - including the regulation of energy transfer, the creation of energy communities as legal entities and the regulation and simplification of their operation - and the development and dissemination of various model projects (energy communities, financing models based on alternative financial engineering, etc.) would also help local authorities.
- Civil - municipal partnerships are usually non-institutionalised, i.e. they are set up on a project basis and dissolve at the end of the project.

Thank you!

