



Energy efficiency first principle:

Concerted Action EED, Working Group Session 8.4
19 March 2026, Dublin

Energy Efficiency Unit, DG ENER.B2
European Commission

Guidelines on the design of CBAs for EE1st

Requirement of Article 3(6) of EED recast

- **Let there be light!**
- COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION setting out guidelines for the design of cost-benefit methodologies for the application of the energy efficiency first principle pursuant to Article 3(6) of Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Adopted on **11/03/2026** as **C(2026) 1486**

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- How to design cost-benefit methodologies for the application of EE1st: common principles and steps of cost-benefit methodologies and specificities in case of EE1st CBAs
- Focus on **wider benefits of energy efficiency (social, economic, environmental)** and possible quantification and monetisation methods and key considerations (overlapping, double counting)

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- Preparing the application of the principle
- The process of identifying alternative energy-efficient solutions
- The 7 steps of a CBA
 - Establish a baseline scenario
 - Establish a timeframe for energy savings and establishing the social discount rate
 - Identify the impact and monetisation of costs and benefits
 - Select a mathematical aggregation rule
 - Clearly and transparently present the comparison of policy options and alternative measures, ranked in order of merit
 - Check robustness of results
 - Take into account the distributional and cumulative impacts of the proposed policy

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- Monitoring and reporting
 - Monitoring the application of the EE1st and communicating the results achieved
 - Data collection processes (from public bodies and market stakeholders)
 - Reporting on EE1st principle

Key findings of CINEA cross-programme portfolio analysis on EE1st

- In 2025, CINEA provided a portfolio analysis **covering 66 projects** which are targeting directly the operationalization of EE1st as well as projects which are not specifically dedicated to EE1st but could foster its implementation
- This is a useful resource which will also feed into the upcoming sector-specific guidelines on EE1st
- Categories covered:
 - Integration of EE1st into policy-making at national and regional levels
 - Cost-benefit methodologies
 - Monitoring of EE1st implementation
 - Awareness raising about EE1st
 - Practical implementation of EE1st

Examples of LIFE funded projects on EE1st



Provide decision-support for **regional authorities** to apply the EE1st principle in their energy-related planning practices

Departing from six participant regions and expanding to over 100 regions in the EU.

(November 2022 - October 2025)

[Regio1st - IEECP](#)



Provide public authorities and other stakeholders with hands-on resources to implement EE1st

Demonstrate how EE1st can be implemented with pilot cases in 4 countries

(November 2023 - October 2026)

[ENEFIRST + - IEECP](#)

Thank you