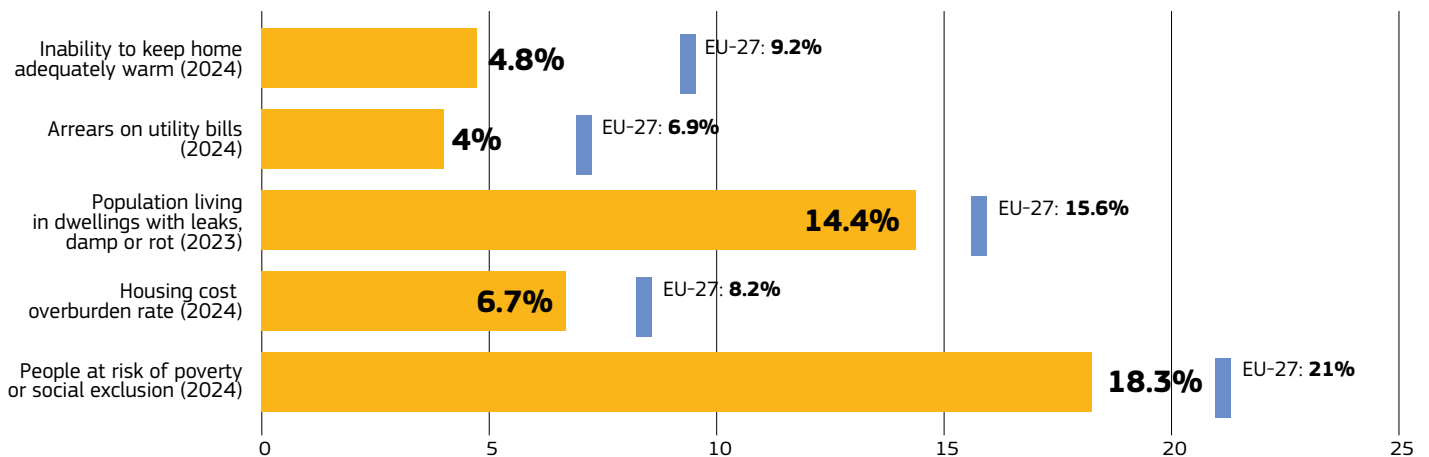


NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY DEFINITION

Belgium has defined energy poverty through the [Royal Decree of April 19, 2024](#), which transposed Directive 2023/1791 on energy efficiency (recast). “Energy poverty is defined as a household’s lack of access to essential energy services that form the basis of a decent standard of living and health, within a relevant national context and taking into account social and other relevant national policies. These essential energy services include, in particular, adequate heating, hot water, cooling, lighting, and power for household appliances. This lack of access to essential energy services results from a combination of factors, including: financial inaccessibility, inadequate disposable income, high energy expenditure, and low housing energy efficiency.”

ENERGY POVERTY EPAH INDICATORS

A selection of indicators, based on the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1563 on energy poverty.



[EPAH'S ENERGY POVERTY INDICATORS DASHBOARD](#)



NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY INDICATORS AND TARGETS

The [Royal Decree of April 19, 2024](#), established three energy poverty indicators to monitor energy poverty in the country. However, no targets have been defined yet. Annual monitoring is published on the website of the [Federal Public Service Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy](#). The overlap among the three indicators suggests that up to 19.7% of households experience at least one dimension of energy poverty in Belgium.



March 2026

NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY INDICATORS AND TARGETS

PRIMARY ENERGY POVERTY INDICATOR	VALUE (YEAR)	TARGET (YEAR)
Disproportionate share of disposable income is spent on energy costs – very high bills compared to disposable income (risk of measured energy insecurity)	14.8% (2024)	NA
Energy consumption is reduced below their basic needs – very low bills compared to households in a similar situation (risk of hidden energy poverty)	2.6% (2024)	NA
Feel they are struggling to pay their energy bills – financial difficulties in adequately heating one’s home: (perceived energy insecurity)	4.1% (2024)	NA
Overlap of energy poverty indicators	19.7% (2024)	NA



NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY GOVERNANCE

KEY POLICIES ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY

YEAR	LAW	DESCRIPTION
2020	Long-Term Building Renovation Strategies: Flanders , Wallonia , Brussels	Belgium has developed Long-Term Building Renovation Strategies for its three regions – Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels. These combine regulation, staged energy performance roadmaps, dedicated financing and targeted social measures, such as subsidies, renovation loans, social-housing upgrades, energy coaching and consumer protection. One of the goals is to protect vulnerable households and tackle energy poverty. The regions retain responsibility for implementation and targeting.
2025	National Energy and Climate Plan	The NECP consolidates the energy-climate strategies of the federal government and the three regional governments (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels), outlining Belgium’s path towards meeting its commitments by 2030. It recognizes energy poverty as a social and policy priority and provides for monitoring and support measures through social-tariff schemes, housing renovation and targeted assistance for vulnerable households, under the competence of each region and the federal State.
Ongoing	Draft National Building Renovation Plan for Wallonia	The Wallonia region has submitted its draft National Building Renovation Plan to the European Commission, building on the previous Long-Term Building Renovation Strategy. Consultation with stakeholders was promoted through the Alliance Climat Emploi Rénovation (ACER) and four thematic working groups were established between May and September 2025.
Ongoing	Social Climate Plan	Belgium is developing its Social Climate Plan within a working group with representatives from the federal and regional governments. Public consultation has been carried out. Belgium received support from the European Commission’s Technical Support Instrument (TSI) to develop its Social Climate Plan.

NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY

Belgium does not have a national energy poverty observatory.

EPAH ANTENNAS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

EPAH Antenna: EPAH has partnerships with energy poverty stakeholders in all Member States. In Belgium, the Antenna is Climate Alliance through its Brussels office. Climate Alliance is a core partner in the EPAH consortium.

Website: <https://www.climatealliance.org>. Contact: dora.biondani@energypoverty.eu. Check [EPAH’s Organisations List](#) to discover other energy poverty stakeholders in the country.



March 2026

NATIONAL MEASURES AND ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES

This section highlights a selection of ongoing national measures and local initiatives addressing energy poverty. Further projects and updated information are available in the online EPAH Atlas database.

EPAH ATLAS DATABASE


MEASURES	DESCRIPTION
Social Energy Tariff (federal) <i>[since 2021]</i>	Automatic favourable tariffs for electricity, gas, and heating for vulnerable households covering about 1 million households in Belgium and being identical throughout the country. The Social Energy Tariff reduces energy poverty as it lowers energy costs for vulnerable households, ensuring that families with low or unstable income can maintain access to essential energy services even during periods of high market volatility. During the energy crisis, eligibility criteria were broadened, expanding coverage to around 20% of all households.
Public Centres for Social Welfare (OCMW/CPAS) energy grants and crisis support <i>[at least since 2021]</i>	Local OCMW/CPAS provide targeted financial aid for small energy efficiency improvements, personalised guidance, and mediation with suppliers, preventing disconnections and helping vulnerable households overcome acute financial and administrative barriers to energy access.
Flanders: Energy Houses Wallonia: Energy Helpdesks Brussels: Homegrade <i>[since 2022]</i>	Across Belgium, regional advisory services such as the Flemish Energiehuizen, Wallonia's Guichets Énergie, and Homegrade Brussels provide free, accessible, and impartial guidance on renovation works, energy bills, home audits, and available subsidies, helping vulnerable households overcome barriers to improving the energy performance and overall comfort of their homes.
Flanders: Flemish Renovation Premium (Mijn VerbouwPremie) <i>[since 2022]</i>	The Flemish government's main subsidy scheme for renovation and energy efficiency investments in homes, flats, apartment buildings or non-residential buildings. It covers a broad range of interventions, such as insulation, windows and doors, and heating systems (heat pumps, condensing boilers, solar water heaters). The subsidy level is income-dependent, meaning that lower-income households receive a larger share of eligible renovation cost.
Wallonia: Housing allowances (temporary support scheme) <i>[2025-2026]</i>	The Walloon government adopted a temporary support scheme for housing/renovation aid (primes) that is in force from 14 February 2025 through 30 September 2026. Under this scheme, owners of older dwellings can get financial support for energy audits and for energy renovation measures (thermal insulation, heating and hot water systems, electrical and gas installation, among others). The grant is means-tested: households with lower incomes receive larger subsidies (up to 70% of eligible costs for lower-income categories), which helps reduce the upfront cost barrier for energy-efficiency improvements.
Brussels: RENOLUTION programme <i>[since 2022]</i>	The main renovation and energy efficiency grant system of Région de Bruxelles-Capitale, launched in 2022, offering grants for insulation, window and door replacement, improved heating, ventilation, building envelope upgrades and general renovation works for homes and other buildings. The grants are means-sensitive: priority and larger bonuses go to lower-income households and landlords of social housing. It is aimed at improving energy performance, lowering energy bills, reducing heat loss, and improving dwelling comfort. The scheme has been under review for 2025, pending a new government decision.
Flanders: Noodkoopfonds (emergency buyers fund) <i>[since 2021]</i>	Precarious house owners/buyers (+- 120.000 in Flanders Region) lack the financial capacity to realise deep renovation and safety or health improvements. Noodkoopfonds is a bullet loan of max 50,000€, aimed at a specific group with low income and bad housing quality, which exempts any downpayment for 20 years, comes interest free and is facilitated with 9000€ for renovation and social guidance. The system originated in Gent and was scaled to the Flanders Region, currently around 700 households have benefitted.



March 2026

NATIONAL MEASURES AND ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES

MEASURES	DESCRIPTION
Flanders: EHBE - Eerste Hulp Bij Energiegemeenschappen (first aid for energy communities) <i>[since 2022]</i>	The EHBE provides free technical assistance in Flanders Region, through 12 regional hubs and a central knowledge hub. In its KPI's, vulnerable citizens are explicitly targeted (30% of total citizens reached) to reduce energy poverty risk. A "solar panel rolling fund" principle has been streamlined for vulnerable owners and tenants, tackling split incentives. It is also working with local governments and SMEs for profit and/or energy sharing with social target groups. Still in pilot scale, EHBE has supported more than 10 solar installations.

ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES	DESCRIPTION
Futureproof buildings programme in Ghent	Local energy-poverty programmes in cities like Ghent integrate social services, municipal housing companies, and specialised energy advisors to deliver proactive home visits, appliance checks, tailored energy coaching, and mediation with suppliers. This coordinated approach supports vulnerable households who often face complex barriers, helping them reduce consumption, stabilise energy bills, and avoid disconnection risks.
Brussels Social Real Estate Agencies	The Social Real Estate Agency system in Brussels mitigates energy poverty by renovating and managing affordable housing for low-income residents, improving building quality, and ensuring stable, regulated rents. Through these mechanisms, vulnerable households gain access to better-performing dwellings, benefiting from long-term housing security in a market where inefficient buildings and high prices disproportionately affect those already at risk.
Energiek Pelt : targeted local support and energy efficient appliances as a service (papillion)	Pelt is a small municipality that decided to focus their energy premiums / allowances on social target groups. Previously, anyone renovating could apply for these local premiums, in addition to regional or national subsidies. In this targeted approach, an integrated energy scan is the starting point, guidance & advice and an assessment whether "Papillion" leasing of efficient appliances is appropriate. Papillion provides "peace of mind" for the energy bill and repair/ replacement budget crisis for a vulnerable household.

FURTHER READING

- [Energy Poverty Barometer 2024](#)
- [Energy Poverty in Belgium](#)
- [How to tackle energy poverty? A compass for local governments](#)
- [PATHS2050 Platform](#)
- [Capturing the multifaceted nature of energy poverty: Lessons from Belgium](#)



March 2026

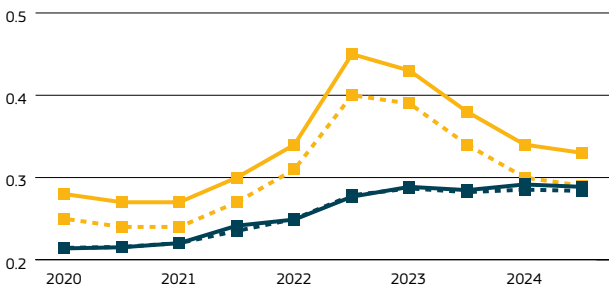
MEMBER STATE BACKGROUND

Belgium is a Western European federal state with a temperate maritime climate. The country has a population of [11,817,096 people](#). The real GDP per capita in 2024 was [44,460 euros](#), which is above the EU-27 average value (33,650 euros). Belgium has a Gini coefficient of [24.6](#) (a measure of economic inequality), which is below the EU-27 average value of 29.4.

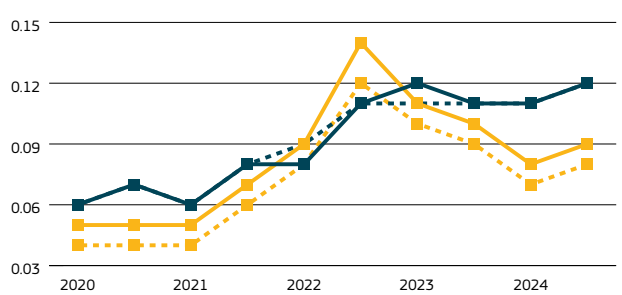
ENERGY PRICES

Belgium (in EURO) Belgium (in PPP) EU-27 (in EURO) EU-27 (in PPP)

ELECTRICITY PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

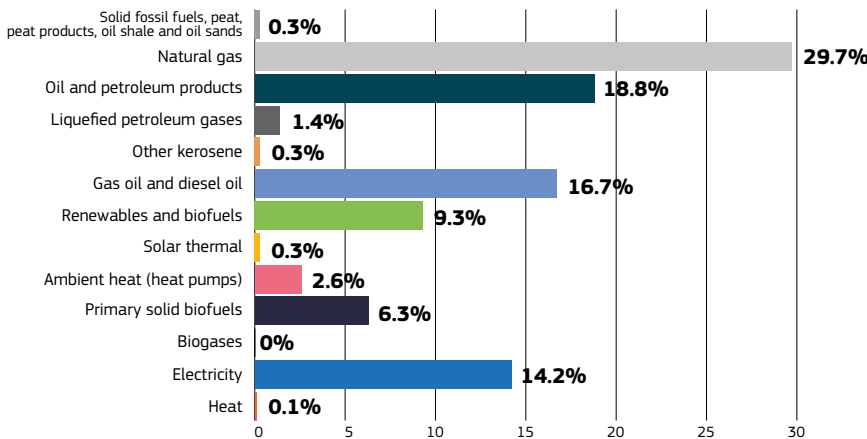


GAS PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

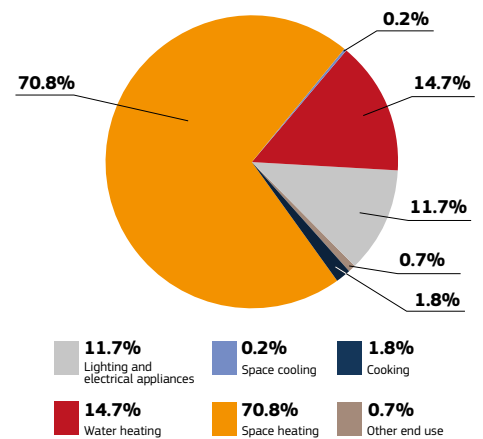


HOUSEHOLDS ENERGY CONSUMPTION

FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN HOUSEHOLDS BY ENERGY SOURCE (2024)



FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN HOUSEHOLDS BY END USE (2024)



VULNERABLE AND HARD TO REACH

Note: All data shown as a share of the total population of the country (2024). [Source](#).

Low income	28%
Low education	14%

Rural households	15%
Elderly households	18%
Young households	11%
Single parents	8%

Migrants	20%
Unemployed persons	4%
Ill-health and disabilities	23%
Tenants	30%

