

Annex: possible not exhausting “decision tree” for the rating of various projects

The “decision tree” should include different levels of ambition to take into account the different levels of development still characterising the European Union.

- **Level of ambition: 1**

1. Projects implementing the energy-efficiency first principle in industry and buildings, as well as related workforce training.
2. Interventions deploying solar, geothermal and wind facilities, including the whole value chain.
3. Interventions implementing circular economy principles, such as facilities for collection, re-using and recycling of materials.

- **Level of ambition 2**

1. Larger onshore solar and wind facilities, including the whole value chain.
2. Interventions and research about other low-impact energy sources complementing renewables with direct emissions <100 g/kWh.
3. Deeper commitment to energy-efficiency first principle in buildings (e.g. nature-based solutions, deep renovations) and industry (e.g. technology and research to decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors or process switch in energy intensive industries), workforce retraining.
4. Deeper commitment to circular economy: closing landfills by 2030, gas capture to existing closed landfill facilities (gas capture of at least 75%, the gas must be used to generate energy).
5. Interventions aimed at discouraging private transport in favour of clean public transport.
6. Interventions aimed at improving water use efficiency and recycling.

- **Level of ambition 3**

1. Interventions deploying larger offshore solar and wind projects and other marine renewables, as well as the whole value chain.
2. Implementation of renewable hydrogen facilities aimed to industrial needs and/or grid storage along with the related research activities.
3. Smart grid applications and storage assets, including the whole value chain.
4. Interventions aimed at massive deployment of cycling infrastructures and cycling schemes, investments in trainlines and ICT systems aimed at improving journey times and accessibility investments in modal facilities and clean public transport.

- **Banned investments**

1. Fossil fuels (including gas infrastructures) and, in general, energy sources based on combustion. This must include waste incineration and co-incineration facilities as well.
2. Nuclear and related activities.
3. CCS and CCUS applied to existing and new fossil fuel production and distribution.

4. CCS and CCUS research and applications not ensuring at least 90% of recovered CO₂.
5. CCS and CCUS research and applications in industrial sectors where other CO₂ abatement technologies are available (e.g. renewable hydrogen).
6. New hydro projects and infrastructures, including mini hydro.
7. Solid biomass for electricity production only or co-firing with other fuels. This should also exclude any conversions or retrofit of existing boilers to use biomass, unless the resulting environmental performance goes beyond the benchmarks set for "new installations" and at least 70% of the useful heat is meeting heat demand of a public district heating network or industrial process.
8. Domestic heating systems based on fossil fuels or biomass.
9. Aviation infrastructures.
10. Private mobility infrastructures leading to an increase of private mobility (e.g. new motorways, enlargement of motorways).