

4. Clean Energy for Islands Initiative

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The Paris Agreement acknowledges that islands are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and over-dependent on fossil fuels and energy imports. Many of Europe's 2400 islands are small isolated systems and small markets. However these islands, where 15 million Europeans live, have the potential to be frontrunners in the clean energy transition by adopting new technologies and implementing innovative solutions. The European Commission is acting to develop and support the clean energy potential of European island communities from Åland to the Azores.

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2400 islands.**



► What will the European Commission do next?

The **Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative** aims at accelerating clean energy transition by helping islands **reduce their dependency on energy imports** and **making better use of locally available renewable energy sources**. It will also **promote modern and innovative energy systems** and help islanders **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**.

The **new EU Island Secretariat** was set up to work with island communities. The Secretariat's first task will be to **gather and share best practices** between EU islands and to provide technical assistance. In particular, it will:

- 1 promote energy self-reliance of islands;**
- 2 encourage the reduction of the dependency on costly fossil fuel imports, easing the strain on public budgets;**
- 3 deliver best available, tailor-made solutions to boost renewable energy in the islands.**

The EU will also be active at the global level in support of vulnerable island communities. The European Commission is mobilising support and resources for the transformation of energy systems in Small Island Developing States, under the umbrella of the International Renewable Energy Agency. Actions include:

- an inventory of all energy transition projects and sustainable energy actions supported within the bilateral cooperation programmes of the European Commission with third countries;
- information on experiences and best practices on the energy transition in EU islands.



The island of Samsoe, Denmark: an example of a self-sufficient community in renewable energy.

