Sep 2026

WELCOME

to issue No.4 of the Energy4Supply newsletter!

In this issue, we are pleased to share the latest developments from the Energy4Supply project and highlight several important milestones across the consortium. In this issue you will find a recap of our recent **Consortium Meeting in Malmö**, and we also take a closer look at the **EU Omnibus package** and what the revised sustainability reporting and due diligence rules mean for companies and their supply chains. We also introduce **NEAD®**, a digital platform developed within E4S to bring energy data, audits, measures, responsibilities and follow-up together in one integrated system. Finally, we report on the latest progress of the **Energy Efficiency Networks** in Italy, Sweden and Austria, highlighting how companies are turning peer exchange and practical experience into concrete energy efficiency actions.

The Energy4Supply project, funded under the EU LIFE Programme, aims to accelerate the clean energy transition by enhancing energy efficiency among manufacturing SMEs within the upstream value chains of focal companies. A central objective is to collaborate with four focal companies to understand, demonstrate, and drive decarbonization across their manufacturing value chains. This includes introducing a novel, lightweight certification scheme tailored for SMEs, offering a more accessible alternative to traditional standards such as ISO 50001. The project will implement four energy efficiency network programmes, each associated with a focal company group, facilitating peer learning and sharing of best practices. Upon completion, a centralized resource hub will be developed to support European SMEs in adopting sustainable energy solutions.

In brief, E4S serves as a demonstration project, illustrating how focal companies can proactively plan to decarbonize their supply chains by engaging SME suppliers who are not subject to mandatory reporting. The approach aims to evaluate whether fostering voluntary improvements and creating business models can enhance resilience against energy price volatility in the short, medium, and long term in the upstream value chain.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with colleagues who might be interested!

To keep up with the project, follow us on our social media channel on LinkedIn and our website.

Kind regards,

The E4S Team

PROJECT NEWS

Strengthening Collaboration at the E4S Consortium Meeting in Malmö

In May, the Energy4Supply (E4S) consortium gathered in **Malmö, Sweden**, for its latest project meeting, hosted by our Swedish partners. The two-day meeting combined internal project discussions with valuable exchanges between project partners, focal companies, and industry representatives.

The E4S Consortium in Malmö, May 2026

The first day focused on progress across the different work packages, allowing partners to review ongoing activities, discuss upcoming milestones, and coordinate the next steps of the project. The day concluded with a joint dinner attended by representatives from the participating focal companies, providing an excellent opportunity to continue discussions and strengthen collaboration in an informal setting.

On the second day, the consortium was welcomed by **IKEA** for a series of interactive sessions together with **Schneider Electric** and the E4S focal companies. Discussions addressed key topics for sustainable supply chains, including financing opportunities for energy efficiency investments, reducing the administrative burden of energy data collection, Scope 3 emissions and CSRD requirements, as well as benchmarking approaches and supplier engagement strategies.

The consortium would like to thank **IKEA** for hosting the event and sharing valuable insights into its approach to energy efficiency and sustainable supply chain management. We also extend our appreciation to **Schneider Electric** for contributing its expertise in global procurement and supply chain sustainability. Finally, we would like to thank our focal companies for their active participation and openness in sharing practical experiences, ensuring that the solutions developed within E4S continue to address the real needs of European manufacturing supply chains.

Focal Company Session at IKEA

What the EU Omnibus means for sustainability and supply chains

The EU has revised its sustainability framework through the **Omnibus package**, introducing significant changes to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). The overall objective is to simplify sustainability requirements, reduce administrative burdens and limit the cascading of reporting obligations to smaller companies.

One of the most significant changes is the **narrower scope of the CSRD**. Under the revised rules, reporting requirements apply to companies with more than **1,000 employees and annual net turnover above €450 million**. This means that many companies previously expected to fall under the CSRD will no longer be directly subject to its requirements. At the same time, a value-chain cap limits the amount of sustainability information that larger companies can request from smaller business partners.

The CSDDD has also been significantly narrowed. It will now apply only to companies with more than **5,000 employees and worldwide net turnover above €1.5 billion**. Due diligence remains risk-based, allowing companies to focus their efforts on areas where adverse environmental or human-rights impacts are most likely or severe. The revised directive also removes the obligation to adopt a climate transition plan under the CSDDD and replaces the EU-wide civil liability regime with national-level enforcement. Member States have until **26 July 2028** to transpose the revised rules, with companies in scope expected to comply from **July 2029**.

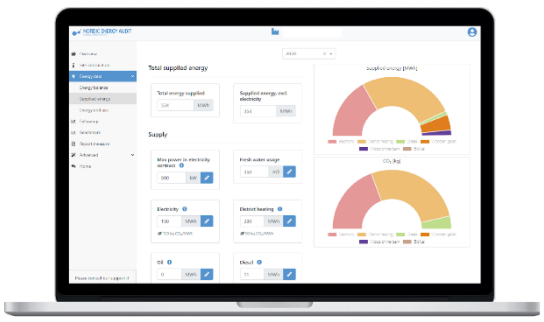
For SMEs and supply-chain partners, the changes may reduce direct regulatory pressure. However, this does **not mean that sustainability requirements disappear from supply chains**. Large companies will continue to need information about their suppliers, while companies across the value chain face growing expectations around energy efficiency, emissions and environmental performance.

For E4S, this reinforces the importance of understanding sustainability not only as a reporting requirement, but as a practical supply-chain issue. Companies can benefit from using the additional flexibility to focus on their **most relevant suppliers, material sustainability risks and concrete opportunities for improvement**, rather than treating sustainability data collection as an exercise in gathering information for its own sake.

NEAD: Bringing Structure to Energy Management

Advancing Energy Efficiency Through Knowledge and Networks

One of the key developments within the Energy4Supply (E4S) project is the continued advancement of **NEAD®**, a digital platform developed by our partner **Nordic Energy Audit** to support structured and continuous energy management.

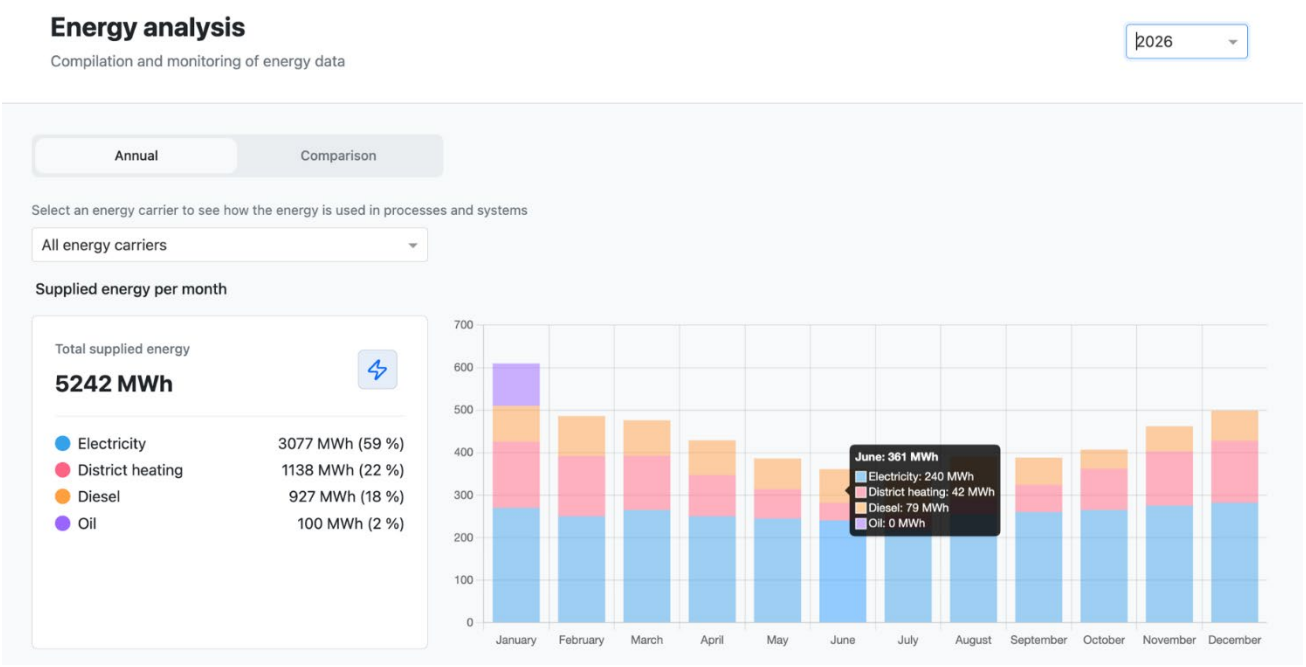


Many companies already collect energy data and carry out energy audits, yet valuable information often remains scattered across spreadsheets, reports and different departments. NEAD addresses this challenge by bringing **energy data, audit results, improvement measures, responsibilities and follow-up together in one integrated platform**. This enables companies to move from isolated energy projects to a more systematic, traceable and business-driven approach to energy management.

The platform supports organisations throughout the entire improvement process. It enables users to collect and analyse energy data, organise audits and action plans, assign responsibilities, monitor implementation, and support energy management practices in line with **ISO 50001** principles. Beyond individual companies, NEAD also facilitates collaboration within supply chains by improving the visibility of energy use, implemented measures and opportunities for further improvement between focal companies and their suppliers.

The NEAD visualization platform

NEAD is already being used within the E4S pilot activities. Participating suppliers have received access to the platform, where the results of their energy audits and recommended efficiency measures are available in one place. Initial feedback has been very positive, with users particularly appreciating the structured visualisations and the ability to manage all relevant information through a single system rather than multiple disconnected documents.



Excerpt from the NEAD platform

Looking ahead, further developments will focus on enhanced data visualisation, improved follow-up of implemented measures, support for reducing idle energy use and peak loads, and the continued expansion of functionalities supporting ISO 50001-based energy management.

Companies interested in learning more about NEAD and its potential applications can contact **Nordic Energy Audit** at **info@nordicenergyaudit.se**.

EE Networks Energy Efficiency Networks Gain Momentum

A key pillar of the Energy4Supply (E4S) project is the establishment of **Energy Efficiency Networks (EENs)** that enable companies to exchange practical experience, identify

improvement opportunities and support each other in implementing energy efficiency measures. Across the partner countries, the networks are now developing at different speeds, providing valuable insights into how this approach can work in different supply-chain contexts.

In **Italy**, the network coordinated by POLIMI is progressing well, with five strategic suppliers of Mondadori actively involved. All SME suppliers have already implemented one or more measures identified through their energy audits, often proactively and independently. Participants have particularly valued the opportunity to work on energy efficiency, decarbonisation and sustainability together with their customer and with support from the university. Discussions have also highlighted growing interest in financial solutions that could help keep value within the supply chain.

In **Sweden**, the two networks are developing along different paths. The **ProfilGruppen network** has completed five meetings with strong participation, covering topics including energy management, measurement and follow-up, heat recovery, energy storage and load management. The next session will focus on business models and industrial symbiosis. The **AGCO/Valio network** has held two meetings so far and is preparing its next session on measurement and follow-up. While participation has been more challenging, several companies remain actively engaged and the network continues to be developed with a focus on making participation as practical and accessible as possible.

EE Network meeting hosted on-site at A-Lackering

In **Austria**, four network meetings have now been held with around eight to nine participants from five companies. The latest session focused on energy procurement and load management. Early feedback indicates that the exchange is already translating into action, with participating companies reporting changes in their practices, including improvements related to compressed-air systems. The Austrian network places particular emphasis on the practical expertise of participating companies, complemented by short expert inputs from e7 and targeted preparation before each session.

Together, these experiences are helping E4S understand **what makes energy efficiency networks work in different contexts and how peer exchange can translate into practical action for SMEs across supply chains.**

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