

Fossil Fuel Lobbying Against the Electrification of Buildings Threatens Climate Targets and Public Health

Oil and gas, and utility companies' strategic pro-gas campaign appears to be winning out over efforts from renewables in the EU and globally

- **Analysis** reveals a coordinated campaign from the oil and gas industry in the EU to undermine requirements around the electrification of buildings in the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).
- Across the world, industry actors are using a common playbook of tactics and tailoring their pro-gas arguments to align with local issues—with clear examples also found in the US and Australia.
- Industry actors in the EU most often emphasize the importance of gas in the energy transition and the benefits of technology-neutral policy to convince policymakers to prolong the role of fossil gas in the buildings sector.
- Positive corporate voices are emerging in support of science-aligned policy, however, they are no match for the well-resourced, vested interest opposition.

A [new report](#) from InfluenceMap details a strategic, coordinated campaign by the fossil fuel industry to weaken building electrification efforts in the EU and to generate opposition to the transition away from fossil gas appliances. It finds that industry employed a toolbox of tactics toward this end, particularly the direct lobbying of policymakers and engagement with policy, as well as public statements. These tactics mirror strategies used in the US and Australia on similar policy proposals and appear to be having considerable success in delaying the global phase out of gas.

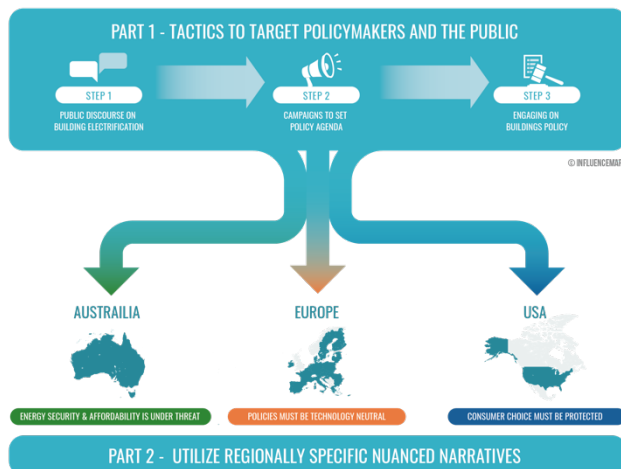
Significant advocacy was found in the EU from **Edison, Eurogas, FuelsEurope, Fortum, GasNaturally, Gas Distributors for Sustainability (GD4S), Naturgy, Polska Grupa Energetyczna (PGE), and Snam.**

Industry representatives in the EU focused particularly on engaging with European policymakers through legislative consultations and numerous meetings with members of the European Commission and Parliament. The report identifies five [meetings on the EPBD](#) between entities identified as advocating against the phase-out of fossil gas technologies and lead Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). Industry also used the circulation of joint letters and position papers around key moments in the legislative process as another powerful tactic to undermine progress.

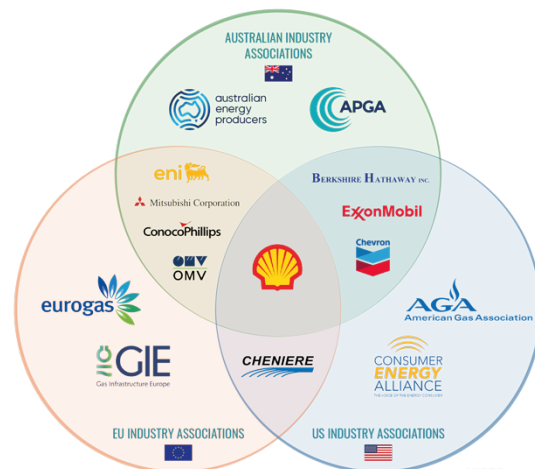
The analysis finds that advocates in the EU most often argued that a “technology neutral” approach to building regulations be used and that fossil gas was a solution for the energy transition, with these arguments appearing in 50% of tracked advocacy. At least 11 different companies and industry associations used similar or near identical language along these themes in their engagement with the EPBD.

Comparison of advocacy in three geographies suggests that industry groups globally are leveraging their representatives’ regional expertise to strategically tailor their arguments. In the EU, InfluenceMap [research has shown](#) how arguments around technology neutrality have previously proved successful in delaying climate policy and how this has likely influenced their continued use. By contrast, in the US, industry has opted for arguments around consumer choice to advocate against the phase out of gas, arguments which have proved successful in debates around gun control and tobacco in the past. In Australia, the report finds that arguments around energy security and affordability were used most often—again, a line of debate that has gained traction in local politics in recent years (Graphic 1).

Graphic 1: Influencing Playbook to Weaken Building Electrification



Graphic 2: Corporate Members of Industry Associations Obstructing Building Electrification



The analysis also shows that a group of major oil and gas companies appear to be driving this pushback, with many holding membership to industry associations operating in different regions and at least one company (**Shell**) holding membership to all of the most obstructive

industry associations (Graphic 2). The lack of transparency over membership lists for these associations makes the full extent of these overlaps hard to assess.

Previous InfluenceMap [research](#) shows how industry representatives often share tactics and resources across continents to achieve their aims. Even with the emergence of positive actors in Europe, such as **Iberdrola**, **EDF**, **Schneider Electric**, **Siemens**, and **Eurelectric**, these coordinated efforts continue to prove successful at delaying and weakening science-aligned policy implementation.

In the final EPBD, incentives for fossil fuel boilers were banned starting in January 2025, with a full phase-out set for 2040 despite industry opposition. However, industry successfully secured eligibility for hybrid heating systems using fossil fuels to receive incentives beyond 2025, maintaining a role for fossil gas to some extent.

The IPCC is clear: the longer it takes to transition the energy mix away from gas, the more it will cost to manage the adaptation and clean up from climate change-induced disasters—as evidenced so clearly by the catastrophic flooding in Europe last year, which was [shown](#) to have been worsened by climate change as a result of increased GHG emissions.

Vivek Parekh, Program Manager at InfluenceMap said:

"The scale and success of the oil and gas industry's coordinated action to obstruct building electrification is alarming. Decision makers need to be well-informed on how these groups work in order to identify and challenge the misleading narratives and recognize the real risks that come from inaction, both to the planet and human health."

Sophie Gepp, Physician and a Research Associate at the Centre for Planetary Health Policy (CPHP) in Berlin, said:

"The emissions from fossil gas technologies harm our health. The industry's strategic attempts to delay building electrification and weaken climate-friendly policies threaten both human health—now and in the future—and the health of our planet."

Dr Kate Wylie, Executive Director of Doctors for the Environment Australia, said:

"Fossil fuels are hazardous to human health. From extraction, through to processing, usage, and waste, fossil fuels harm human health, and this harm is felt throughout the human lifecycle affecting us from childhood, during adulthood, and in our elderly years."

The weight of evidence of this harm is clear and indisputable. Fossil fuels are the primary cause of climate change and its multiple health impacts, as well as causing air pollution, contributing to biodiversity loss, and as a source of plastic pollution.

The undermining of electrification efforts by the fossil fuel industry is highly concerning from a health perspective. Wind and solar are cleaner and healthier and choosing these to power our communities is the right ethical choice. The pattern recognized by InfluenceMap shows a disturbing global effort and a disregard for the weight of health literature on the health harms caused by coal, oil, and gas."

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