

Executive Summary

Spain aims to become a carbon neutral country (with zero net greenhouse gas emissions) by 2050. In this context, the Spanish government has developed its Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP; or “PNIEC” in Spanish) to achieve this objective. The measures promoted by the NECP are characterized by being linked to the Spanish territory, in such a way that the application of the proposed decarbonization measures offers different opportunities to local government entities.



Within the scope of their respective competences, Local Entities can promote the implementation of key measures set out in the NECP related to sustainable urban mobility, renewable and low-carbon energy, local and distributed electricity production, energy efficiency, waste management, forest carbon sinks and the Just Transition. In some instances, Local Entities are directly responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the measures, with actions such as the establishment of low-emission zones; the calculation, reduction and compensation of carbon footprints; promoting the inclusion of ecological criteria in public procurement; and sustainable waste management. Furthermore, given their proximity to citizens, Local Entities can promote more proactive roles of citizens; environmental education; improve Local Governments’ administrative procedures to make them more agile, simple and close to citizens; and can facilitate greater citizen participation through consultations and the creation of collaboration platforms.

A very favorable financing framework exists for the adoption of energy transition measures. The clear commitment, both from European and Spanish institutions, to address climate change and energy transition make this an opportune time to promote the measures set out in Spain’s NECP. Furthermore, many of these measures promoted in the NECP are already advantageous in economic and energy saving terms. Citizens can also play a fundamental role in the development and implementation of measures that support the energy transition, climate change and broader sustainability objectives. Their commitment is key to achieving decarbonisation goals, and hence it is important to constructively engage with them

