

# WELL SPENT

## COHESION POLICY THAT WORKS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BENCHMARKS AND INSPIRATION FOR 2014-2020

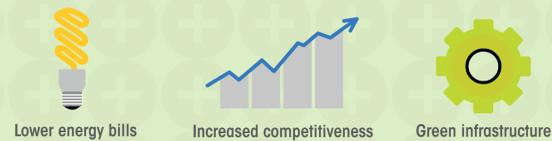
To build a stronger and more sustainable European economy, Cohesion Policy must make the right investment choices. Making the transition to lower energy consumption, higher resource efficiency, greater use of renewables and biodiversity protection will give Europe's economy a major boost thanks to increased investment, innovation and clean technologies.

With the support of regional funding, Europe can reduce its emissions, diminish its use of oil and gas, and reduce the use of resources. This would decrease our import dependency while maintaining our global competitiveness.

Europe also needs to protect biodiversity which is the backbone of many sectors such as agriculture and fisheries. It is estimated that the 'Natura 2000' network of protected areas provides €200-300 billion per year of services in water and land management alone (this includes things like water filtration and protection from erosion). If the Cohesion Policy can support similar projects on a larger scale we can expect substantial economic return from these natural assets.

### The direct benefits of supporting a sustainable Cohesion Policy

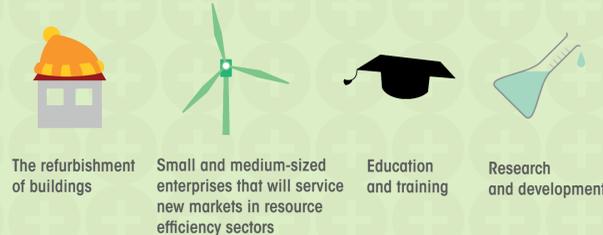
Investments aimed at increasing energy and resource efficiency have a **direct payback** through:



Investing in the right places could bring these **potential savings**:



Green investments will also stimulate **job creation** – up to 1.5m new jobs by 2020 in:



If the right steps are not taken, business costs will continue to spiral out of control, compounding our economic malaise. We must embrace new carbon reduction technologies immediately and continue working on greater resource efficiency.

The longer we ignore the problems of climate change and biodiversity loss, the more expensive and problematic it will be to remedy these crises. Cohesion policy can play a decisive, positive role in turning things around now and for the long-term.



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CO-FUNDING PERCENTAGE (ERDF, CF, EIB)



