

New GSE guidelines to decarbonise glass and steel

In early October Italy's state-owned energy agency GSE released new guidelines to decarbonise the glass and steel industries - outlining strategies, investments and incentives to cut emissions. The initiative supports hard-to-abate sectors through renewable energy use and tradable instruments that certify energy savings achieved through efficiency improvements.

Italy's Gestore dei Servizi Energetici (GSE) has unveiled a new initiative aimed at supporting the so-called hard-to-abate industries - those facing the toughest challenges in cutting emissions - as it defines investment strate-

gies to advance decarbonisation. As the country's main public body for promoting renewable energy, efficiency and the management of national incentive programmes, GSE has positioned the move as a key step in accelerating the





green transition nationwide across the industrial landscape.

BROAD CONSULTATION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Under the leadership of Vinicio Mosè Vigilante, the organization published its first sector-specific guidelines for glass and steel in early October 2025 - an outcome that follows continuous dialogue with trade associations as well as broad consultation efforts with companies, all carried out over recent months through meetings held directly within production facilities. Here Vigilante explained that the initiative was conceived in response to the growing weight of

energy costs on corporate competitiveness, noting that the guidelines represent a tangible measure of support for Italy's productive system. He further pointed out that the broader plan will soon extend to other sectors, including paper and cement, as well as non-energy-intensive industries. The GSE chief also stated that the organization's role is to accompany companies in this transition by providing strategic tools to enhance efficiency, remove barriers to investment and guarantee secure energy supply chains. Each of the two newly-issued documents -around forty pages in all and available on the GSE's website- offers a detailed overview of the current status of de-

carbonisation efforts in the steel and glass sectors.

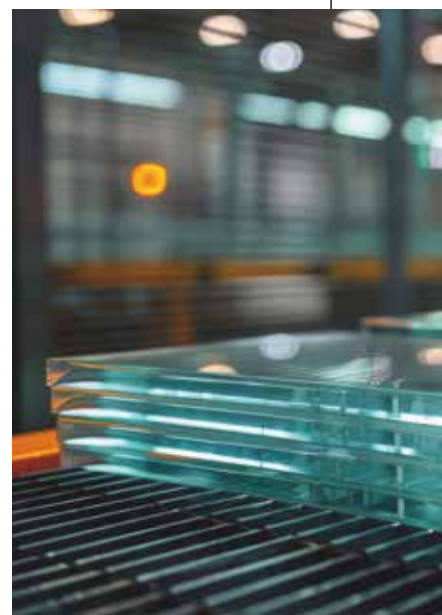
DATA, INVESTMENT TRENDS AND SECTORAL INSIGHTS

Drawing upon data from Federacciai, which represents the entire Italian steel sector and is a member of Italy's largest employers' and industrial confederation Confindustria, GSE highlighted that Italian steelmaking currently shows the lowest carbon intensity per ton in Europe - having reduced specific CO₂ emissions by about 60 percent since 1990. GSE added that Italian producers now record energy efficiency and CO₂ performance levels roughly 30 percent better than the European average. The

reports also indicate that investments in decarbonisation have more than doubled since 2021, supported by an expanding range of technological solutions. As for the glass industry, citing figures from Assovetro, the decarbonization pathway planned by the EU for 2050 will entail a radical transformation of the glass sector in the way products are manufactured and energy is used, requiring new technologies, adequate infrastructure and substantial investments, estimated at EUR 15 billion at least to achieve net zero by 2050. The agency identified several pathways to reach that goal, including greater energy efficiency, the adoption of green fuels and the development of carbon



the new guidelines provide a comprehensive roadmap of services and mechanisms that the GSE makes available to the steel and glass industries. It emphasises the potential of renewable energy integration and energy-efficiency improvements in production assets and buildings. According to the GSE, the aim is to give companies a detailed reference framework enabling them to make the best possible use of existing government incentives and to accelerate their own decarbonisation pathways.



capture and storage (CCS) technologies.

TOOLS, INCENTIVES AND POLICY INTEGRATION

The second part of the guidelines outlines cross-cutting strategies for all

hard-to-abate sectors, starting with tools such as white certificates and the Conto Termico incentive scheme, before delving into more sector-specific actions. The Conto Termico -or 'Thermal Reckoning'- is a national programme administered by

the GSE to promote energy efficiency and renewable heat production in buildings. Active since 2013, it remains one of Italy's most important mechanisms for reducing emissions from heating systems in both public and private structures. Overall,



Viale Maresciallo Pilsudski, 92
00197 Rome - ITALY
www.gse.it