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Governance barriers to energy transition in the EU

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- ❑ To identify the key factors of energy choices in three areas: transport, heating and cooling, and electricity.
- ❑ To better grasp the interactions between individual and collective energy choices and the regulatory, technological and investment prerequisites of the Energy Union.
- ❑ To look at the social acceptability of energy transitions.
- ❑ To increase the knowledge of governance and social mobilisation practices that encourage collective energy choices in line with the Energy Union objectives

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- ❑ To provide strategic policy recommendations

- ❑ Coverage: 9 countries:
 - 3 non-EU (Norway, Serbia and Ukraine)
 - 6 EU (Germany, UK, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, France)

- ❑ Research methods: qualitative and quantitative (survey of households, case studies, incl. desk research, analysis of documents, in-depth interviews, focus-groups)

- ❑ Coverage of country case studies:
 - Wind, Solar and Smart-Grid Power Network
 - Bioenergy and biofuels
 - Energy efficiency
 - Electrification of vehicles

	Development of clean energy sources, e.g. RES	Price of energy, socially acceptable and affordable for all people	Energy efficiency of private and public buildings	Power, gas and heating prices should be regulated by the government consistent with the living standards in the country	Power markets should be fully liberalized, so that energy prices are dependent only on the market	Phasing-out nuclear power plants (if any)
Bulgaria	29.8%	82.6%	44.0%	58.3%	18.0%	6.6%
France	56.5%	54.3%	38.7%	47.5%	14.4%	28.4%
Germany	60.9%	95.3%	33.9%	26.0%	NA	NA
Hungary	44.0%	53.5%	25.7%	50.5%	16.1%	14.2%
Poland	49.0%	73.2%	42.2%	60.7%	14.9%	NA
Serbia	40.7%	69.3%	29.0%	63.0%	22.6%	NA
Ukraine	50.1%	75.8%	34.7%	62.0%	19.1%	21.5%
United Kingdom	64.8%	74.8%	54.0%	51.8%	15.9%	23.9%
average	49.5%	72.3%	37.8%	52.5%	17.3%	18.9%

Source: Nationally representative survey of households, ENABLE.EU project

Governance barriers and drivers (1)

□ Wind, Solar and Smart-Grid Power Network

- Most developed
- Received highest political attention and commitment on EU and national level
- Benefiting from the strongest financial support and legislation development
- In many cases / countries: lacking adequate policy implementation
- Constraints to further development: regulation and market factors; insufficient human and financial resources; strong 'old-time-energy' lobbying

➡ Policy-takers vs Policy-makers
➡ Energy transition = wind and solar energy

□ Bio-energy and bio-fuels

- Strongest public concerns about bio-diversity and nature
- Suffers in most cases from an underdevelopment of both regulatory and institutional framework
- Lack of publicly available information
- Lack of cross-sectoral integration

Governance barriers and drivers (2)

☐ Energy Efficiency

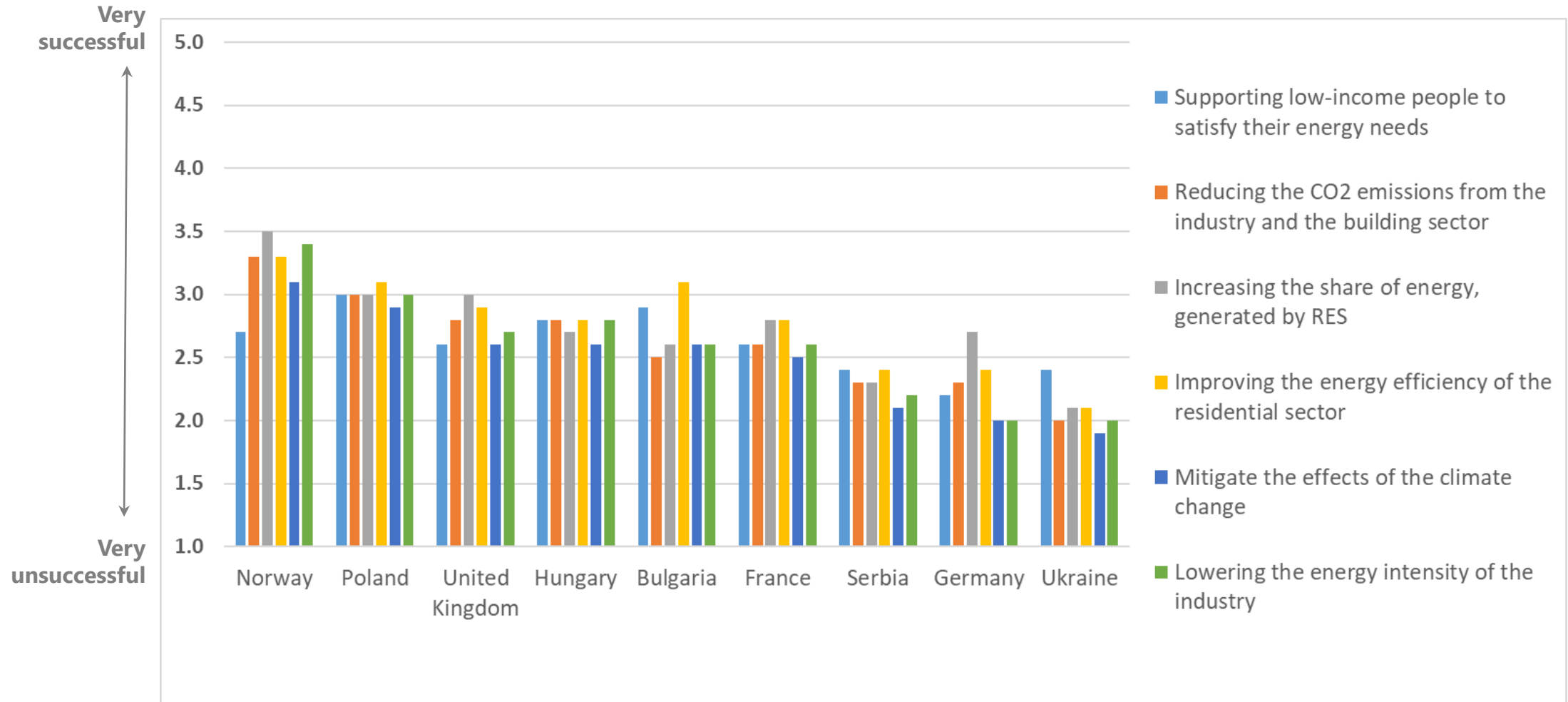
- The least controversial policy and a “low-hanging fruit”, available to all countries;
- “Natural” priority for business enterprises aiming at improving their competitiveness

- Affordability issues
- Often lack of clear policy and goals at national level despite the binding EU targets

☐ Electrification of Vehicles

- Industry-led

- Politically and technically underdeveloped
- Policy subsidiarity, i.e. dependent on the development of other low-carbon-policies (RES, bio, EE, energy poverty, etc.)



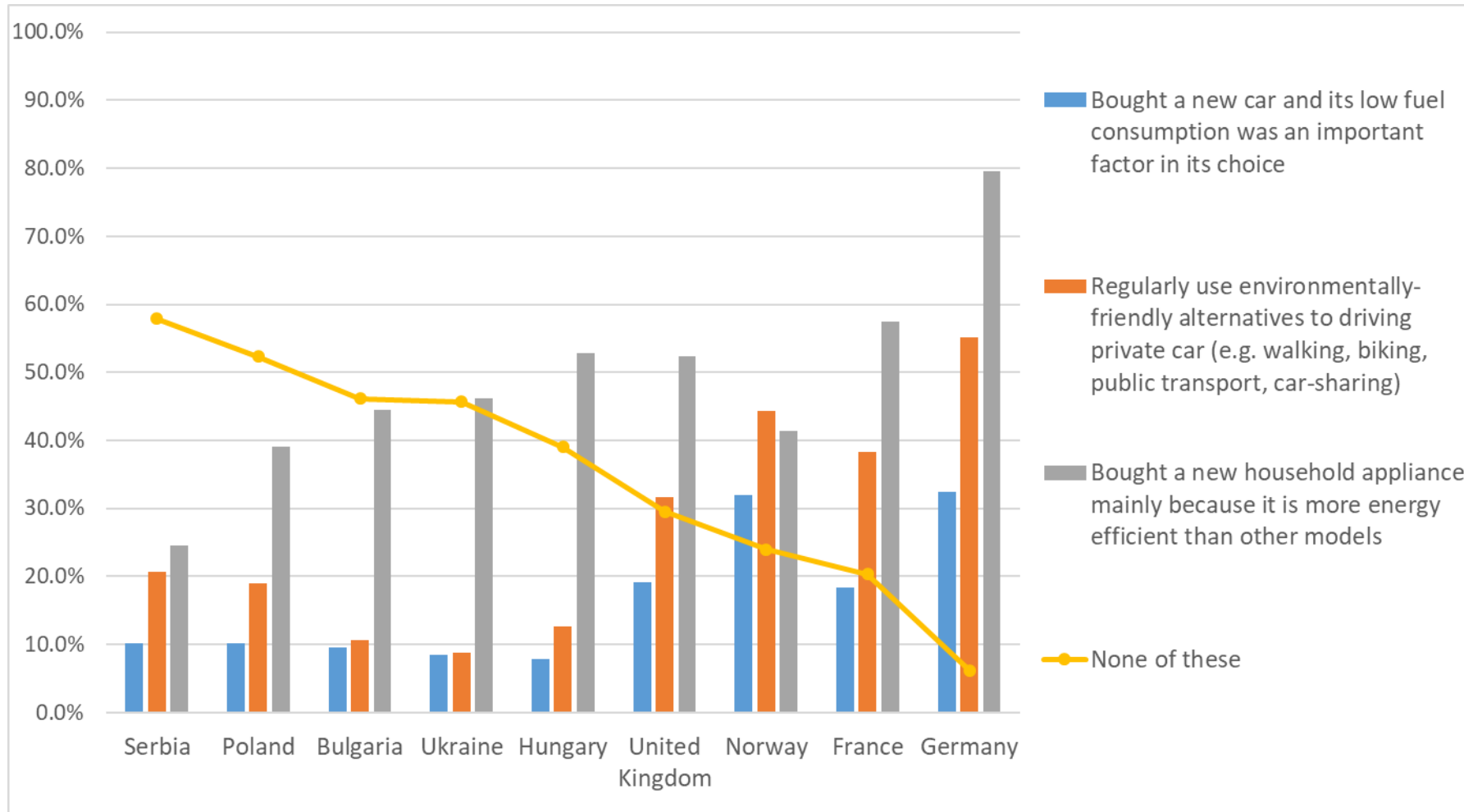
Source: Nationally representative survey of households, ENABLE.EU project

General barriers and drivers

- ❑ Further and deeper harmonization of national policies across sectors and policy areas is highly needed on national level
- ❑ Diversification of RES is deemed fundamental and governments must pay higher attention not only to electricity generation but on other sectors and services (heating, biomass, transport)
- ❑ Except for RES-E, financial and regulatory instruments needed for full-scale deployment of low-carbon technologies and practices are generally missing

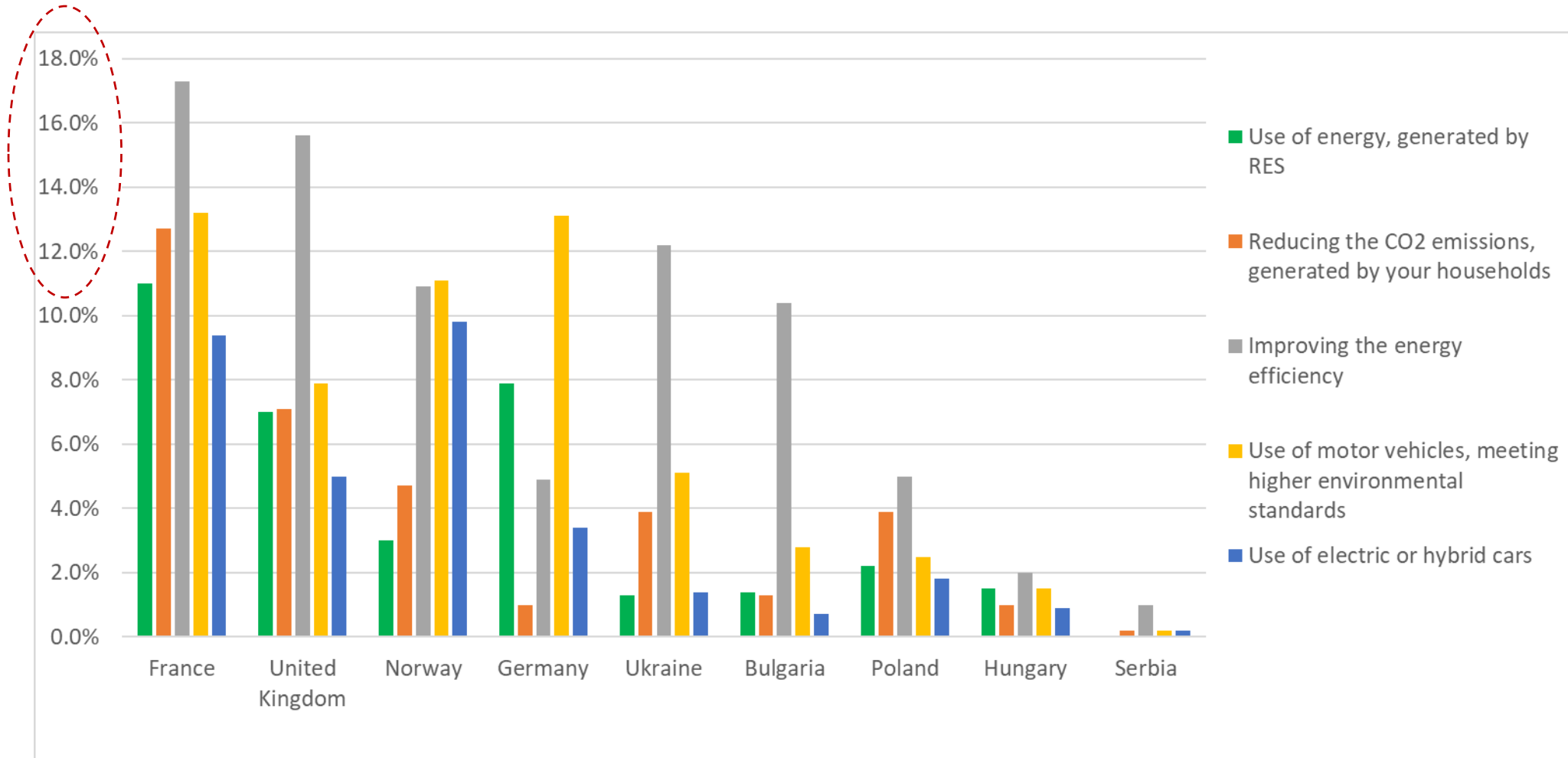
- ❑ Incentives and drivers for shift in individual behaviors are largely missing
 - ➔ Energy transition “on two speeds”

Individual choices



Source: Nationally representative survey of households, ENABLE.EU project

Use of public funded programs, subsidies or financial incentives for implementing measures in the households over the last 3 years



Source: Nationally representative survey of households, ENABLE.EU project

General recommendations towards the EU:

- ❑ Secure **long-term political, financial and social commitments** and synergy across the various policy areas:
 - **Overcoming the EU-centered design** of energy policies
 - **Overcoming the “stop-and-go”** approach in national policies
 - **Overcoming the discrepancy between the top-down approach** of the general policy-making and the **bottom-up characteristic** of the energy transition, seen as intrinsic and vital for its success
- ❑ Ensure permanent **development and improvement of human resources** in the public administration of the energy sector, particularly avoiding political interest groups' influence;
- ❑ Ensure better **division of jurisdictions, responsibilities and tasks** and avoid overlapping of functions and conflicting priorities or activities;
- ❑ Ensure **evidence-based independent assessment** of the economic, social and environmental benefits and disadvantages of energy policies, incl. through:
 - Developing (new) mechanisms for more effective dissemination of information, knowledge transfer and **deliberative** decision-making

Specific recommendations towards the EU:

- Ensure **affordability** of energy transition policies to be in the focus of decision-making, evading renewables to be seen by the public as a scapegoat;
- Ensure better involvement of low-carbon **R&D and technological development** in universities and support to the tech companies;
- Develop and introduce "**EU Energy Security Risks Index**" providing both the EU and separate countries with reliable and sustainable metrics for informed decision-making, incl. in the field of quality of governance;

National policies in advanced-developed countries:

- Provide best practices and demonstrate the long-term positive effects;

National policies in lagging-behind countries:

- Mitigate **affordability** issues in their policies by **focusing on individual and community level**
- Avoid **abuse of public spending** due to low governance standards
- Focus on 'low-hanging fruits', such as **energy efficiency**

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