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Addressing Hidden Energy Poverty in Getafe, Spain

Energy poverty is defined as the inability to adequately heat or cool the home or use the energy needed because the cost is unaffordable for the inhabitants. This issue manifests during both summer heat waves and winter cold spells. The project in Getafe aims to address this challenge by combining social inclusion and energy transition. Everyone should have the right to affordable, reliable, renewable, and sustainable energy. This principle underpins the project's approach to tackling energy poverty. Furthermore, currently energy is a critical issue in relation to climate change, where most of our energy is based on fossil fuels and domestic energy demand is high due to poor building insulation. Energy retrofitting, adding insulation to facades and roofs, is a key tool, especially in winter, but some hidden energy poverty remains. Urban areas often experience the heat island effect, where street and building materials absorb and retain heat from the sun more efficiently than natural surfaces like soil, grass, or water. This effect is exacerbated by the lower vegetation levels in urban areas compared to rural ones, and the higher concentration of vehicles and buildings that generate heat through air conditioning, industrial processes, and transportation.

Getafe innovation urban project addresses the challenge with a multicriteria approach. The project employs a data analytical system based on monitoring, surveys, and socio-demographic analysis to identify and support those affected by energy poverty. By fostering collaboration among different departments and including neighbors in the solution, the project aims to develop a more effective and comprehensive service. Furthermore, the project implements interventions at both the street level (community spaces) and building level (energy retrofitting). These interventions include small and medium-scale passive solutions for both outdoor and indoor environments. This case study highlights the innovative approach taken to address hidden energy poverty, emphasizing the importance of social inclusion, collaborative efforts, and sustainable energy solutions.

Source: EESF project, based on [EPIU - Energy Poverty Intelligence Unit](#) | [UIA - Urban Innovative Actions](#)



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