



Greece | Recycle – Change my appliance (Ανακυκλώνω - Αλλάζω συσκευή)

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Background and objectives

The "Recycle - Change my appliance" scheme was a subsidy programme designed to address excessive energy consumption used for cooling purposes, and promote the recycling of old and inefficient cooling appliances (i.e. air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers), to be replaced with new and more efficient ones.



This has been the largest programme for recycling and replacement of electrical appliances in Greece, where citizens of all income categories could apply, while emphasis was given to prioritizing poor households. This subsidy programme was a nationally funded programme that was initiated in 2022 and was terminated within the same year. It was part of Greece's National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030.

Key features

The subsidy concerned the replacement and recycling of:

- old air conditioners: manufactured according to outdated technologies and with old refrigerant (up to two appliances): to be replaced with new ones, of energy class from A ++ or higher (i.e. A+++),
- old refrigerators with old energy classification (up to one appliances): to be replaced with new ones, with energy class E or higher (i.e. D, C, B, A) (considering the new [EU energy labelling scale](#))
- old freezers (up to one appliances): to be replaced with new ones, of new energy class from F or higher (i.e. E, D, C, B, A)

Beneficiaries' selection: Applications are ranked and selected according to economic and social criteria (income per household member; family member with a disability; single parent families; number of dependent members). Vulnerable households get a higher score.

Each application included a total of one to three devices to be replaced, with the possibility to submit one application per adult.

The eligibility criteria concerned 4 income categories (higher grant rate for lower income):

- below €5,000: 50% grant rate
- over €5,000 and up to €10,000: 45% grant rate
- over €10,000 and up to €20,000: 35% grant rate



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- over €20,000: 30% grant rate

Practical aspects:

- Eligible costs included both the net value of the device and the VAT, depending on the buyer's place of residency.
- The subsidy was provided through vouchers issued by the programme, which could be used when purchasing a new appliance at electrical appliances retail stores, and cover part of the total cost.
- For each purchase of a new subsidized appliance, there was a parallel obligation to dispose for recycling an old appliance belonging to the same category (scrappage scheme).

Implementation

Design and preparation of the scheme: A step-by-step guidance was published by the **Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy** to support the residents with the application procedure for the replacement of their appliances (relevant material published in Greek [here](#)). At the same time, the successful implementation of the programme required informing and guiding the local retail and manufacturing ecosystems. Therefore, official guidance by the national authority was tailored for retailers, such as electrical appliance stores (relevant material published in Greek [here](#)), manufacturers, representatives, and distributors, (relevant material published in Greek [here](#)), as well as technicians (relevant material published in Greek [here](#)). The full implementation guidebook is provided in the Greek language [here](#).

Implementation, monitoring and controls: The “Implementation and Control Body” and the “Certification and Payment Agency” were the main authorities that aimed at securing the successful and fair programme implementation. In short, the “**Implementation and Control Body**” was responsible for issuing the provisional and final results of the evaluation and announcing the lists of funding applications that may be subsidized by the Programme. The tasks of the “**Certification and Payment Agency**” included (1) certifying the procedures of the Program, including the sale of new subsidized appliances and the withdrawal of an equal number of old ones, and (2) providing the corresponding subsidy (payment to suppliers).

Customer's journey/application: The main steps for the application to programme included:

- Submission of an application via the website gov.gr. During this process, certain information, such as the electricity metering and income data, were verified.
- If the application was approved, the applicant received a voucher within 3 to 4 weeks after the application platform closed
- The applicant could use the voucher at an official retailer/energy services provider; with the use of the voucher, the buyer paid only the remaining cost of the new appliance of their choice. The old/replaced appliance was collected by the retailer for recycling, to validate the subsidy

Budget

Programme Budget: The programme was supported by a national public budget, amounting to EU 286.000.000. The subsidy started from 30% and reached up to 50% of the cost of the devices, while the final grant amount per device was capped from €135 to €710, depending on the type of device that was recycled. The budget allocation across the Greek regions is presented in the following table.

Results and impacts

Programme impact: The programme aimed to reduce the electricity consumption by up to 40%, while the reduction of the energy bill of a house can exceed €300 on an annual basis, depending on the category and the

use of the device that was replaced. The total energy savings through this programme were estimated to reach 209,000 MWh per year (source: MURE database), which is equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of all the houses in a city with a population of 100,000 inhabitants. The results of the programme, in terms of application numbers and appliance replaces are presented in the table below (data last updated in June 2025).

Overall the scheme supported the **replacement of more than 630 000 air-conditioners**.

	Air-conditioners	Refrigerators	Freezers
Number of Vouchers Published	489,386	356,083	95,703
Sales of Appliances			
The appliance is available for use	167,314	98,424	44,256
The appliance has been reserved/redeemed by a merchant.	322,072	257,659	51,447
Recycled Appliances			
The appliance has been handed over for recycling by the private individual to the retailer.	77	19	13
The old appliance has been handed over by the retailer to a recycling organization.	1,214	248	58
Disposal has been confirmed by the Certification and Payment Agency.	632,283	254,907	50,419

Source: based on data available at <https://allazosyskevi.gov.gr/proodos-statistika-stoicheia/>

Lessons learnt

A variety of sources¹ underlined that the “Recycle – Change my appliance” programme was unsuccessful, due to the fact that a great number of applications were rejected.

At the same time, the subsidy incentive distorted the market behavior, as many retailers raised the prices of the appliances². Therefore, the programme’s amount provided to the applicants was not enough, in certain cases, to cover a significant amount of the new appliance’s price.

Sources

- Detailed description of the scheme in the MURE database: <https://www.measures.odyssee-mure.eu/energy-efficiency-policies-database.html#/measures/4551>
- <https://allazosyskevi.gov.gr/>
- <https://www.gov.gr/en/upourgeia/upourgeio-periballontos-kai-energeias/periballontos-kai-energeias/anakuklono-allazo-suskeue>
- <https://www.measures.odyssee-mure.eu/energy-efficiency-policies-database.html#/measures/4551>
- Source on the application process: <https://ypen.gov.gr/parousiasi-tou-programmatos-antikatastasis-kai-energeiakis-anavathmis-ilektrikon-syskevon-anakyklono-allazo-syskevi/>
- <https://allazosyskevi.gov.gr/to-programma/engrafa-programmatos/>
- Budget data source: [ΟΔΗΓΟΣ-ΑΝΑΚΥΚΛΩΝΩ-ΑΛΛΑΖΩ-ΣΥΣΚΕΥΗ 4η-τροποποίηση.pdf](#)
- Results’ data source: <https://allazosyskevi.gov.gr/proodos-statistika-stoicheia/>

¹ https://www.avgi.gr/koinonia/421414_apokalyfthike-i-koroidia-kopike-83-ton-aitiseon

² <https://www.ot.gr/2022/07/12/english-edition/ceiling-on-retail-profits-for-recycle-swap-appliance-program>