

January 2026

Dear Project SkyPower members,

2025 marked a step-change for e-SAF in Europe. Through the successful publication of the Sustainable Transport Investment Plan (STIP), we helped move public support to e-SAF from vague reassurance to credible plans for a pilot double-sided auction and an EU-wide market intermediary.

At the start of 2026, we are pleased to share our strategy for the year ahead. Building on the successful publication of the STIP, this strategy was developed over recent months and confirmed by the Steering Committee in December.

Over the past year, our work delivered concrete progress across three core workstreams:

- **Policy:** We led engagement with the European Commission that resulted in the inclusion of [a double-sided auction mechanism](#) for e-SAF in the Sustainable Transport Investment Plan, with 8 countries signing on to fund a pilot auction via the Early Movers Coalition in 2026, as well as plans to explore an EU-wide e-SAF market intermediary in the medium term.
- **Finance:** We developed a [report](#) and model exploring practical financial instruments, informed by input from the European Investment Bank, to reduce project delivery risk for early e-SAF plants.
- **Offtake:** We evaluated the financial risks and benefits of signing long-term offtake commitments, and carried out extensive industry outreach to align interested companies around a joint-offtake model.

Building on this momentum, and with the STIP now providing a clear policy foundation, we are pleased to share our **2026 strategy**, focused on accelerating implementation and scale.

While we remain flexible as always to respond to the evolutions in the market, SkyPower has two core objectives for the first half of 2026:

OBJECTIVE 1: Turning policy into projects, and plans into plants:

On top of what we have achieved as a group, each member advanced in project maturity, offtake discussions, and partnerships over the last year. We are now focusing on turning last year's progress into delivery by bringing these threads together around two core opportunities that can provide tangible support to projects.

1.1 Providing industry input into the design of the pilot double-sided auction funded by the [Early Movers Coalition \(EMC\)](#) Member States. [January – March]

Goal	Process	Our ask to you
<p>To make the doubled-side auction pilot announced in the STIP a success, we are developing an open letter to the European Commission and the EMC setting out recommendations on key elements of the pilot’s design. This initiative was spurred by an indication from the Commission that receiving a unified industry position on key pilot design questions would be very helpful.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat is consulting members on key auction design topics (incl. the funding set-up, eligibility criteria and practical auction considerations). • Discussions will be translated into recommendations that will be presented to the Commission in an Open Letter, backed by an explainer deck with the underlying analysis. • We will also seek to organize touchpoints with the Commission and the EMC to present and discuss SkyPower’s findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep an eye out for i) an invitation to a Working Group meeting in late February/early March and ii) a review cycle shortly after – this is so you can provide feedback on the draft position. • Be prepared to i) secure your organization’s backing of the Open Letter via its signing, and ii) to circulate and advocate for the joint recommendations.

1.2 Advancing project-specific transactions through a project accelerator [January – onwards]

Goal	Process	Our ask to you
<p>Building from the 2026 report and engagement with the public and private finance industry, the accelerator will provide hands-on support to one or two of the most advanced projects, working</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project selection criteria are being finalised, and the call for projects will open shortly. Selected projects will work confidentially with the accelerator team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For producers: The expression of interest process will open soon –please keep an eye out to register your interest. • For more information, please contact Mahesh.roy@gfi.green.

<p>with producers to model project delivery risks, making them explicit, quantified, and financeable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the process, the team will engage with Public Financial Institutions, Insurers and banks in co-developing products and solutions for these risks, enhancing overall project bankability. • Key lessons will be shared on an ongoing basis, and case studies will be shared later in the year. 	
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1.3 Unlocking near-term public support beyond the double-sided auction [April-June]

Goal	Process	Our ask to you
<p>Provide industry-backed recommendations for the design of near-term support measures promised under the STIP, including e.g. the extension of SAF allowances, and the European Hydrogen Bank auction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After finishing work on the double-sided pilot auction design, the Secretariat will develop analysis on how the proposed measures can be most impactful in supporting the scale-up of e-SAF. • This analysis will be translated into recommendations and tested with Working Groups. • The recommendations will be presented to the European Commission and submitted to the respective official 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep an eye out for an invitation to a Working Group meeting in early summer • Be prepared to i) provide feedback on the recommendations, ii) to secure your organisations backing, and iii) to circulate and advocate for the joint recommendations.

	public consultations.	
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OBJECTIVE 2: Advancing the strategic and competitive potential of e-SAF for EU airlines [January-August]

As the e-SAF mandate moves from design to delivery, there is a growing need to deepen our collective understanding of how it will work in practice. We want to provide steady, evidence-based guidance to keep Europe’s e-SAF ecosystem on a clear, investable trajectory, monitoring developments, co-ordinating industry positions and ensuring policy discussions remain anchored in technical rigour and long-term strategic goals.

We are therefore starting a longer programme of work that explores how e-SAF deployment can strengthen the European aviation sector while supporting industrial leadership and energy security.

Goal	Process	Our ask to you
Explore and quantify the impact of e-SAF costs on the competitiveness of EU airlines, and, where necessary, measures to level the playing field.	We will revisit and expand our ticket pricing model in consultation with SkyPowerairlines. <i>[Pending funding confirmation]</i> We will explore the feasibility and potential impact of measures to level the playing field, e.g. a SAF-BAM.	We will present our analysis and emerging recommendations through a series of working group meetings, starting in the spring. Be prepared to provide input and feedback.

In the **second half of 2026**, we will be working on translating our work on the pilot double-sided auction into a roadmap and design recommendations for the EU-wide double-sided auction mechanism, and providing support to the ReFuel EU Regulation review.

With this solution set, we aim to provide steady, evidence-based guidance to keep Europe’s e-SAF ecosystem on a clear, investable trajectory, monitoring developments, coordinating industry positions and ensuring policy discussions remain anchored in technical rigour and long-term strategic goals.

Note on working groups

You will notice that our workplan no longer consists of three distinct workstreams. There is growing convergence around the need for regulatory certainty and for making the STIP a reality in practice. We are therefore moving away from separate working groups and encouraging members to join any session of interest. Invitations will be circulated in advance.

We are excited to continue this work and to collaborate with you in advancing these priorities. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, or to express interest in engaging on specific topics or activities described in this letter.