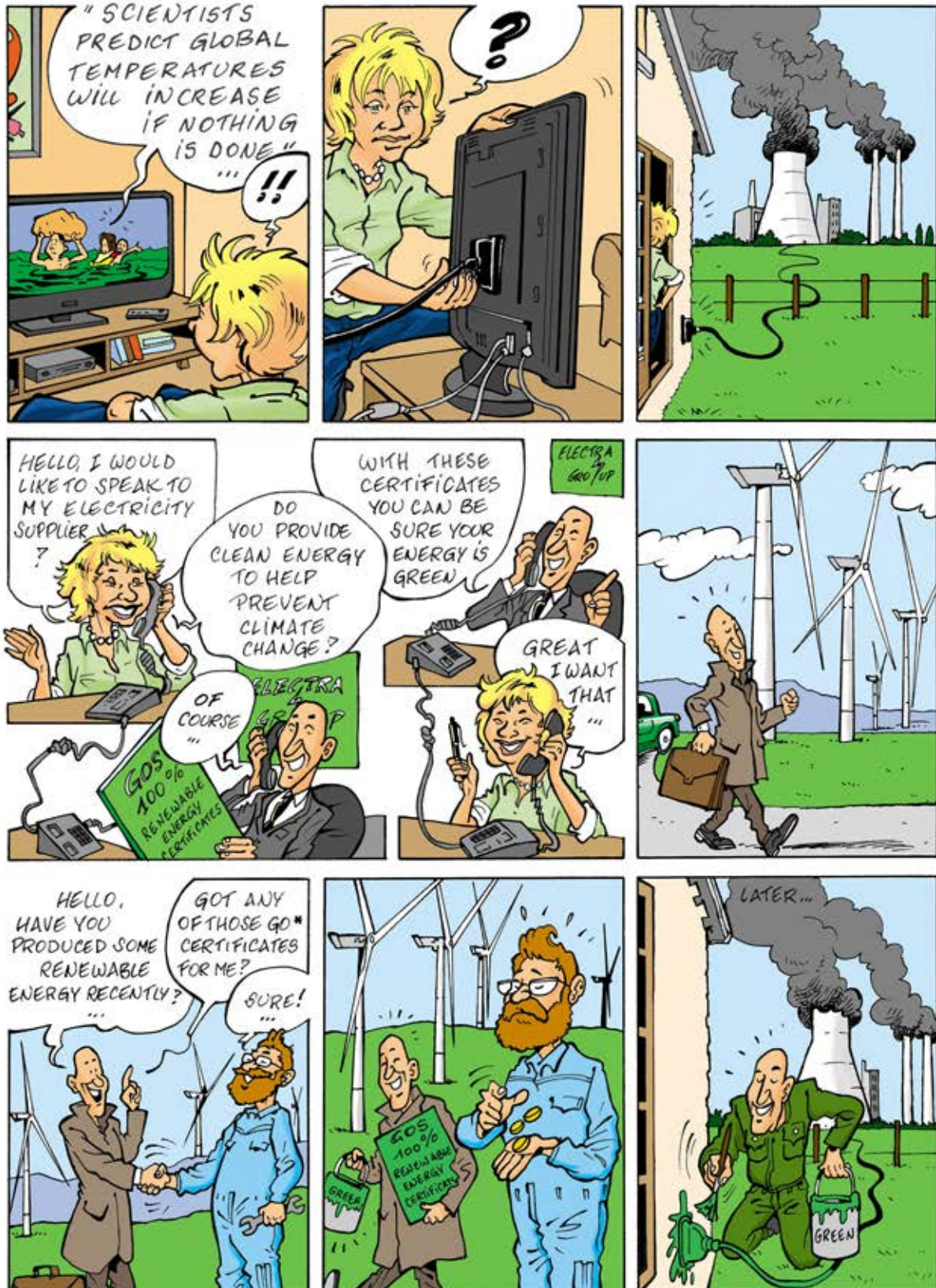
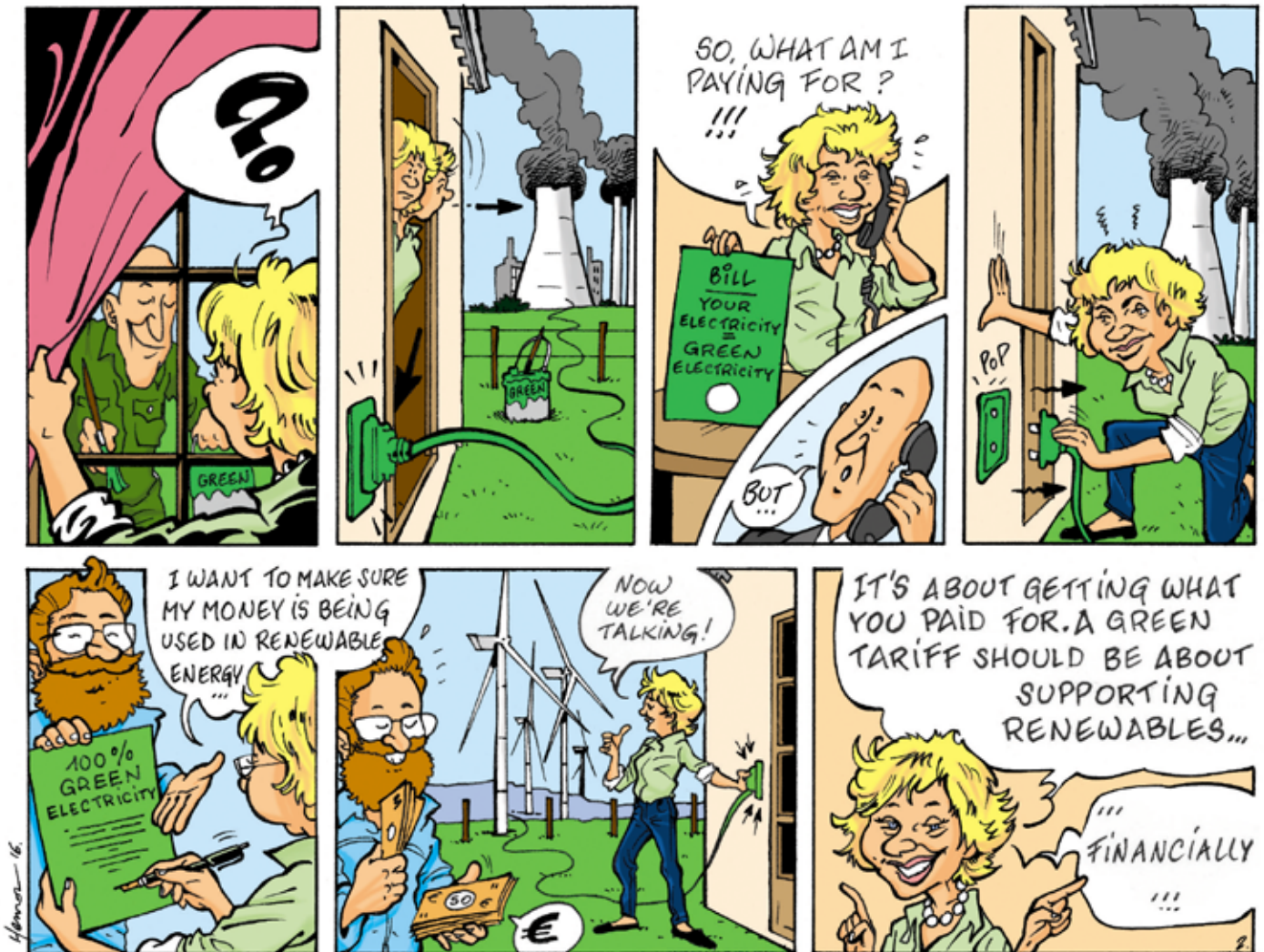


Where does the money from 'green' tariffs go?



* GO (GUARANTEE OF ORIGIN) = CERTIFICATE THAT 1 MWh OF ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN PRODUCED FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY.



Our recommendations

Of course, it is impossible to PHYSICALLY supply the consumer only with renewable electricity from the grid. Electrons have no colour – but fortunately we have the EU-wide Guarantee of Origin (GO) certificate. These certificates are issued when somebody produces 1 megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity from renewable energy.

These certificates get traded, but the problem is that suppliers can use them to cover up electricity produced from coal or nuclear power plants.

To correct this situation, BEUC recommends that the EU legislates on renewable energy so that:

- consumers get clear, comparable and credible information about the environmental footprint of a 'green' tariff
- regulators set rules for the tracing of how green tariffs lead to environmental benefits
- suppliers have to substantiate their environmental claims.

Consumers who sign up to green tariffs expect that their money leads to additional investments in renewable energy.

