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Successful start for the BUILD UP portal

Since its launch on June 16 the BUILD UP portal welcomed more than 1,200 registered users that participated actively in the information exchange on energy efficient buildings by submitting publications, news, cases, events and tools. Eight communities to discuss items of actual interest have also been launched. In its first month the BUILD UP portal has succeeded to attract more than 13,000 unique visitors from all over Europe but also from the US. The users visited a total of 160,000 pages and the most popular features at the moment are news and publications followed by links and tools.

If you are not a registered user yet, the BUILD UP team invites you to become a member at www.buildup.eu in order to benefit from the full functionalities of the portal.

Publications

How to implement a building energy management system

This guide provides advice on implementing a Building Energy Management System, including information on the technology and how to specify its installation with a supplier. A Building Energy Management System (BEMS) allows remote heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) plant rooms to be linked together under a common control system, to allow the monitoring of performance and adjustments to be made from a central location.

Further information: Click here
More publications can be viewed here: Click here

Cases

Borgen Community Centre

The Borgen Community Centre close to Oslo was retrofitted and extended under energy efficient aspects in 2005. The Centre contains public services and private organisations including a secondary school and facilities for health-care services and leisure-time arrangements. The existing building was poorly ventilated, had minimal daylighting, and was not suited for modern working methods and cultural and social activities. For the renovation the plan layout was totally changed and the building now contains daylighting openings on the roof and the new facades. The main building was a demonstration building in the EU project «Bringing Retrofit Innovation to Application in Public Buildings», which run from 2004 to 2008. The energy efficiency measures include daylighting, a hybrid ventilation system, a geothermal heat pump for heating and domestic hot water and insulation on the roof and facades. The energy concept of the project was evaluated by a detailed monitoring. The primary energy consumption could be reduced from 280 kWh/m²a before the retrofit to 102 kWh/m²a after the retrofit. This reduction of 65 % was accompanied by a better users' satisfaction on the building, analysed in detail with questionnaires and measurements of the indoor air quality.

Further information: Click here
Discover other cases and rate them: Click here

Communities

Minimum Energy Performance Requirements

Minimum energy performance requirements for buildings are important to ensure that the energy consumption of dwellings and non-residential buildings is reduced and the energy supply is secured. Several European Union Member States had minimum energy performance requirements before the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, others have just started to fix such limits. The requirements are influenced by different parameters such as building tradition, climate, available technologies, costs for energy efficiency measures, costs for energy carriers, etc.

Still many questions remain:

- Can minimum energy performance requirements be compared between different countries?
- Does country A have tighter requirements than country B?
- Where can I find the latest information regarding the minimum energy performance requirements in the different EU Member States?
- How could the benchmark tool of the EU Commission look like that shall guide the Member States towards more ambitious cost-optimal levels of energy performance requirements?

Stay informed on this item and join the discussions at: Click here
To visit and join other communities: Click here

Events

CLIMA 2010 international HVAC congress

The 10th REHVA World Congress CLIMA 2010 will be held in Antalya, Turkey between May 9-12, 2010, with the theme of “Sustainable Energy Use in Buildings”. Papers are invited, to be in relation to one of the Congress Themes: Sustainable energy systems, Sustainable buildings-Low exergy buildings, Energy performance of buildings, High performance and green buildings etc.

Further information: Click here
Other events: Click here

Tools

A programme for thermal energy calculation and certification of buildings

LESOSAI 6.0 is a programme for thermal energy calculation and certification of buildings comprising one or more heated or cooled zones. It is designed primarily for building and thermal engineers and architects. The software supports several languages: English, French, German and Italian. Users can choose from several calculation methods.

Further information on this tool: Click here
Read about other interesting tools: Click here

News from the EU

EU Commission presents working document on the assessment of the 27 National Energy Efficiency Action Plans

The European Commission has prepared a synthesis report of the complete assessment of all 27 National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAP). The document is available since 25th June 2009 at the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX) and also on the BUILD UP portal. The National Energy Efficiency Action Plans were required by Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services (Energy Services Directive).

Further information: Click here

Newest statistics on economic value of European solar thermal industry

Latest ESTIF statistics demonstrate the strong economic value of solar thermal in Europe. Today, this 3 billion Euro market provides over 40.000 full-time jobs in Europe where the industry has forged a technological lead in generating solar heating and cooling.

Further information: Click here

Summer comfort and air conditioning in Europe: Actual trends and perspectives

The recordings of the ASIEPI webevent on "Summer comfort and air-conditioning in Europe: Actual trends and perspectives" are now available on www.asiepi.eu. Whereas in the past a major challenge was to keep our buildings sufficiently warm, recently and in new buildings the challenge is also to guarantee reasonable comfort conditions in summer with no, or at least minimum, cooling energy. The EU project ASIEPI has held a web event on the current status and the new developments in different countries concerning these issues.

Further information: Click here

News from the countries

Denmark now has a Knowledge Centre for Energy Savings in Buildings

The Danish government has a clear goal: By 2025, the country’s energy consumption should be reduced by 25 percent while the share of renewable energy sources should be increased from 19 to 30 percent. What have the Danes done to meet these targets? - One of the actions has been to establish a national Knowledge Centre for Energy Savings in Buildings serving the building professionals.

Further information: Click here

New Joint Ministerial Decisions signed in Greece regarding the installation of photovoltaic systems in households

On July 6th, 2009 the Greek Minister for the Environment signed the Joint Ministerial Decision regarding the conditions for the installation of photovoltaic systems up to 10 KW on buildings roof(top)s, as well as the Joint Ministerial Decision for the installation of photovoltaics on areas outside urban plan limits. With those decisions, the rules and conditions for the installation of photovoltaics are set, simplifying the procedures, ensuring building aesthetics and increasing the penetration of renewable energy sources in the Greek energy balance.

Further information: Click here

Great Britain increases funding for energy efficiency improvements in

dwellings to 3.5 billion pounds

More help to save energy will be available to British householders due to an increase in the Government's Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) scheme and the introduction of a new Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). Together, CERT and CESP will see extra investment by energy companies under the two schemes, taking the total to an estimated 3.5 billion British pounds in energy improvements by the end of 2012. This shall help the country meet the carbon targets under the Climate Change Act, as well as help it to meet the fuel poverty targets.

Further information: Click here

German minister for buildings presents plus energy exhibition house

The German federal ministry for transport, building and urban affairs has installed an exhibition pavillion in form of a plus energy house in Berlin. The building participated in the solar decathlon competition in Washington DC in 2007 and won the first price. It was designed by the Technical University of Darmstadt and includes energy efficiency technologies for both demand and supply side. The building can be visited in Berlin from middle of May to end of September 2009 and will afterwards be presented in different major cities in Germany.

Further information: Click here

Energy efficiency improvement of Dutch rental housing by tax provisions

Landlords who make existing homes more energy efficient, can get money back through the tax. The Dutch Senate has accepted a proposal from the government to the Energy Investment deduction (Energie-Investeringsaftrek EIA). By this measure around 100,000 rented houses are expected to be made more energy efficient.

Further information: Click here

Also you can provide news for the BUILD UP Newsletter

Have you found some interesting news in the newsletter? Much more news is available in the news section of BUILD UP. Also you can provide news for this portal. All you have to do is use the news upload template (click here) and your information will be spread Europe-wide to interested readers.

Submit your items to extend the content and knowledge on BUILD UP

If you are aware of other publications, events, tools or best practice cases in the field of energy efficiency in buildings, join the portal and submit the information. Other users will benefit from the extended available knowledge.

Subscribe – unsubscribe

If you want to regularly receive the BUILD UP news click here and subscribe to the BUILD UP newsletter.

The included texts in the newsletters are abstracts of the content of the BUILD UP portal.