



[Publications](#) / [Cases](#) / [Communities](#) / [Events](#) / [Tools](#)

[News from the EU](#) / [News from the countries](#) / [Interact with BUILD UP](#)

Dear reader

Denmark's Minister for the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen 2009 Connie Hedegaard opened the COP15 conference on 7th December 2009 with "Let's get it done! And it is do-able." The various speeches at the Copenhagen conference underline the ongoing importance of the planning strategy "think global and act local". Our newsletter selected best practice examples of local activities around energy efficiency in the built environment. The selection includes information on energy efficient refurbishments, user behavior and technologies and ends with efficient Christmas illumination. We hope you enjoy reading our news and send you Season's Greetings

Your BUILD UP team.

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Publications



Draft - Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings (recast)

This document dated 25 November 2009 is from the Public Register of the European Council and results from the first reading by the Council of the EPBD recast proposal from the European Commission. This document is not legally binding. Only legal acts published in the Official Journal are binding.

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EU Local Energy Action - good practices 2008

Policy-makers at EU and regional levels have recognised that action at the local level is essential to meeting energy efficiency and environment targets. This publication aims to help disseminate good practice in local energy actions. It contains 12 examples of good practice from energy agencies across Europe, validated by the European Commission and chosen for their significant contribution to the promotion of energy efficiency and/or renewable energy use, and for their strong possibilities of replication. This document was produced by Kanergi, AB and European Service Network (ESN) for the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy and Transport's ManagEnergy initiative (part of the Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme).

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Cases



Stuttgart-Sonnenberg: Reduction of CO2 Emissions in a Nursing Home

A retirement apartment building built in Stuttgart-Sonnenberg in 1965 is a good example of what can be achieved when a major renovation is combined with an energy efficient retrofit concept developed by a holistic design team. The modernisation of the building services by including bathrooms in the residents' rooms meant altering parts of the building's structure. Coupling these modernisation measures with energy efficient retrofit measures meant that the occupant comfort could be increased while dramatically reducing the energy costs. The primary energy use of the building could be reduced from 522 kWh/m²a to 180 kWh/m²a, which means by about two thirds, through high performance insulation of the building envelope, a combined heat and power unit plus a gas condensing boiler for peak load.

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Green Lighthouse

The house has been finished within less than a year and before the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen starts in December. Green Lighthouse is placed at the Faculty of Science and will contain service functions for students, meeting facilities and a faculty club for researchers. The energy concept is explained in a small movie and contains solar thermal and PV collectors, solar cooling, seasonal heat storage, a heat pump and a connection to the district heating net, as well as optimised use of daylight, LED lighting and natural ventilation.

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Communities



Community on energy performance calculation procedures

The mission of the community is to meet and share experiences and knowledge at European and national level and to ask and to provide support on the status, development and application of calculation procedures on the energy performance of buildings. The prime focus is on methodologies that are fit for use within the context of national or regional buildings regulations (art. 3 of the EPBD). The main target groups are national and European policy makers, (inter-)national standards writers, consulting engineers, manufacturers, and educational institutes. The goal is to stimulate further harmonization of energy performance calculation procedures at European or global level, which will lead to more transparency and efficiency in the procedures and to better competitiveness of the parties involved. Having said that, national differences (climate, building tradition, occupancy, legal environment,..) and innovative techniques need to be taken into account as well.

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Events



Comparing Energy Performance Requirements over Europe

The tightness of the energy performance (EP) requirement levels is a hot topic in a lot of European countries. For instance Germany just tightened its EP requirements with 30% per October 1 and various other countries, like the Netherlands and Denmark, have a long term planning for tightening their EP requirements in several steps. But how can we compare these EP requirements among the countries of Europe? Within the EU project ASIEPI we have developed a method for comparison. This second web event on this topic will update you on the results of our challenging task

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Other events: [Click here](#)

Cooling without Air-conditioning - Symposium & Workshop

Downdraught cooling is an energy efficient alternative to conventional air-conditioning in buildings, which relies on the effect of gravity to create a downdraught and thus circulate air from the source of cooling to the occupied zone within the building. The source of cooling may be either 'passive' or 'active', or a combination of the two, hence the term 'Passive & Hybrid Downdraught Cooling' (PHDC). PHDC has the potential, demonstrated through the successful operation of a number of buildings around the world over the last 15 years, to achieve very significant savings in electrical energy. Fans, which may account for 25-35% of the electrical energy required in a conventional air-conditioned building, are avoided. In hot dry regions, energy savings can be further increased (by 5-10%) by evaporating water within the air-stream to create the downdraught, known as 'Passive Downdraught Evaporative Cooling' (PDEC). The Project is funded by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme. Eight partners, coordinated by the Department of the Built Environment at the University of Nottingham, have undertaken a global review of research and practice in this field. The results have been presented in a series of Symposia and Workshops around the world. The London Symposium is the final of these events. By attending the International Symposium, you will gain insight into recent developments, design software and applications of down draught cooling around the world.

Further information: [Click here](#)

Other events: [Click here](#)

Tools



MIT Design Advisor

Architects and Building Designers can use computer modelling to improve indoor comfort and energy performance of conceptual building designs. But most simulation tools are too complicated for this purpose. Quick, visual comparisons are needed for early-stage design. The MIT Design Advisor is a tool that allows you to describe and simulate a building in less than five minutes. No technical experience or training is needed. An annual energy simulation can be run in less than a minute, and graphical results are immediately available for review. Give it a try.

Further information on this tool: [Click here](#)

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News from the EU



Number of signatories to Covenant of Mayors reaches 1000

On the start day of COP15 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC) in Copenhagen, the European Union is again showing its leadership in tackling climate change with the European Commission announcement that the number of signatories to the Covenant of Mayors on sustainable energy has reached 1000. The German city of Rostock today became the 1000th signatory and is now fully committed to going beyond the EU 20 % reduction target for CO2 emissions.

Further information: [Click here](#)

European Investment Bank funds for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across South Africa

On 1st December 2009 the European Investment Bank (EIB) agreed to provide a EUR 40m loan to FirstRand Bank to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across South Africa. The package marks the first dedicated energy efficiency loan in South Africa made by the EIB. The funding will enhance South Africa's contribution to combating climate change and facilitate economic development through improving the reliability of electricity supply in the country.

Further information: [Click here](#)

EU energy efficiency measures contribute to stabilise electricity consumption

According to a report by the European Commission Joint Research Centre energy efficiency measures introduced across the European Union are already contributing to stabilise the electricity consumption. A combination of labelling, minimum efficiency standards and voluntary agreements, together with national policies and incentives, have flattened the energy and electricity consumption in recent years. For the first time since 1990, final electricity consumption decreased in 2007 in EU households from 806.52 TWh in 2006 to 800.72 TWh.

Further information: [Click here](#)

A common Carbon language for all

The world's leading green building organisations have reached a ground-breaking agreement to adopt a common global language for the measurement of the carbon footprint of buildings. The 'common carbon metric' will be piloted by the leading green building rating tools, and made available to all those who are dedicated to promoting the understanding and development of a green, low-carbon and sustainable built environment. The metric is recognised by the UNEP Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative, and will be highlighted before decision-makers at the conference in Copenhagen in December.

Further information: [Click here](#)

Information and success stories about ground source heat pumps

The IEE project ProHeatPump dealt with improved marketing strategies to promote heat pumps in regions with low market penetration. The project is now completed and offers all project results on its website. The results include training courses for marketing, a documentation of a heat pump conference, the final project report and a cost calculator that allows for comparing costs of different heating systems.

Further information: [Click here](#)

News from the countries



UK Energy and Climate Change Department starts 'Pay as you save' pilots for refurbishment of homes

The UK 'Home Energy Pay As You Save' pilots will give households the opportunity to invest in energy efficiency and microgeneration technologies in their homes with no upfront cost. Householders will make repayments spread over a long enough period so that repayments are lower than their predicted energy bill savings, meaning financial and carbon savings are made from day one. A total of around 500 homes across England will take part in the trial which will provide evidence of how to foot the bill for the Great British Refurb - the Government's plan to make the 22 million existing homes in the UK more energy efficient.

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Construction Law in Poland amended again

On the 27th of August 2009 Polish Construction Law was amended again to change regulations concerning energy certification of buildings. The changed Law broadens the group of experts entitled to elaborate energy performance certificates for buildings. The group now includes all members of the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers and the National Chamber of Architects, regardless of their education (M.S. or M.Arch. degree is not required) and professional qualifications (for designing and supervising construction works). There are now approximately 150 000 persons entitled to elaborate energy performance certificates for buildings. Of all the persons entitled to elaborate EP certificates, only the owner of the building is not allowed to issue the certificate for his/her building (even if he/she possesses the qualifications). All the other participants of the building process are allowed to issue a certificate, provided that they possess the license. In the opinion of the professional environment, the amendment will not solve the problems connected with EPBD implementation in Poland see e.g. at Energia i Budynek 11/2009 the Journal of Polish Association of Energy Auditors

Further information: [Click here](#)

Study on energy saving user behaviour in British homes presents first results

A study performed by the University of Essex is collecting information on British user behaviour regarding energy saving and environment. First presented results are dealing with favourite green behaviour of 1500 respondents analysed so far and include: 82 % say that they are switching off lights in unused rooms, 29

% are using public transport rather than a car, 67 % do not leave the tv on stand-by, 16 % take fewer flights where possible, 55 % don't keep tap on when brushing teeth, 15 % take part in car sharing, 45 % put more clothes on when its cold (to reduce the heating energy need).

Further information: [Click here](#)

Saving energy with efficient Christmas illuminations

During Christmas time numerous fairylights are decorating houses and garden trees. Energy costs for these illuminations are however not neglectible. According to a German study two 9 m long conventional fairylight chains can amount within 6 weeks to about 30 Euros. If energy efficient rope lights with LEDs (light emitting diodes) are used, 80 percent of the energy and the costs can be saved.

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Interact with BUILD UP



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