

It's more than
Renovation!

URBAN Intergroup

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RENOVATE EUROPE



What are the Multiple Benefits of Building Renovations ?

Building renovation can play a key role in contributing to the European Parliament objectives. Renovating the leaky building stock in the EU will generate multiple benefits for businesses, citizens and governments alike:

Stimulate urban regeneration:

- Major renovation programmes can trigger the creation of **local jobs** and reduce **fuel poverty**, thereby contributing to **urban regeneration** and reducing regional disparities, a key aim of cohesion policy. A better take-up of building renovation projects at local level will improve the **economic, social and environmental conditions** in some of the EU's most disaffected areas.

Turn cities into engines of the transition to low carbon economy:

- Given the **high concentration of buildings in urban areas**, cities have a key role to play in driving the implementation of EU legislation and in contributing to the achievement of EU goals through building renovations.

Create millions of local jobs, especially in SMEs:

- The building and construction sectors were hard hit by the **economic crisis**. The SME sector would benefit enormously from more renovation goals across the EU, as **SMEs represent by far the majority of activity in the construction sector**. Energy renovation is a **"win-win" situation for the EU economy as a whole**, as investing in this sector will **increase public revenue (up to €5 additional budget revenue for every €1 of public funds invested)** and provide a boost to GDP.

Achieve better social cohesion and improve citizen well-being:

- We spend 90% of our lives inside buildings, many of which are highly inefficient with **poor indoor climate** conditions. Leaky buildings impact negatively on public health, especially for the **vulnerable segments of society, such as the elderly**.
- Between 50 million and 125 million people suffer from **fuel poverty** in the EU. Investing in large scale energy efficient renovations will reduce the energy bill for EU citizens, while increasing their health and wellbeing at home and at work.
- Improving indoor climate in offices through building renovations can lead to **better worker productivity (up to 15%)** and **reduced sick leave (up to 35%)**.

Invigorate EU competitiveness:

- Wasteful energy practices are undermining our competitiveness. The less efficient our economies are, the less likely they are to benefit from any measures toward growth, because of the **disproportionate share of energy costs** for enterprises', households' and public budgets.
- Reducing EU reliance of foreign energy imports through building renovation will strengthen the EU's independence and **resilience to overseas energy price fluctuations**, inevitably recurrent in a global energy market with strong competing economies where the EU is not a price setter.
- The buildings sector is riddled with **market failures** and is therefore a sector which relies on regulation and policy support to trigger investment. Providing **market certainty** will encourage **private actors to invest** in further production facilities and offices in the EU.

Boost research and innovation:

- The EU currently holds a **global leading position in the development of smart, energy efficient technologies and services**. Increasing the demand for building renovation will maintain research in this field at peak levels, trigger further **innovation** for the market and **facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy**.

Improve public finances:

- Building renovation will result in a permanent boost to public finances as it offers **high returns, stimulates growth and creates local, long-term jobs** in the national economy. Investing in this sector will increase public revenue (up to €5 additional budget revenue for every €1 of public funds invested) and provide a boost to GDP.
- National governments will benefit from **lower public expenses on unemployment benefits and on cold weather subsidies for fuel poverty** as a result. Improving the performance of the existing buildings and thereby improving the health of EU citizens would also significantly **alleviate public health budgets** (for every €1 spent on energy efficiency, €0,42 is saved on health expenditure).

Promote a resource-efficient and sustainable economy and improve air quality for citizens:

- To achieve a high level of sustainability in our economy, the EU must achieve a **high energy performance both for new and existing buildings**. This will be crucial for the EU to **reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2050**.
- Buildings account for **36% of CO2 emissions**. Reduced CO2 emission from buildings would result in improved air quality for citizens, and lead to **healthier living for citizens**.

Provide consumers with better control over their finances:

- Highly energy efficient homes put people more in control and directly addresses the **sense of powerlessness people feel about their energy bills**.

Are Buildings important for Energy Security & Energy Union?

Renovating our building stock could significantly **reduce EU dependence on foreign energy imports**:

40% of all energy consumed in the EU is in buildings

32% of total primary energy used in the EU could be saved with an ambitious renovation programme

61% of EU gas imports used in buildings

Energy efficiency is our **single greatest indigenous source of energy**, and buildings offer the largest untapped and cost-effective energy savings potential.

What about Jobs & Growth for the Juncker Investment Plan?

10% of EU GDP } for buildings-related activity in the EU today
14 m workers }
2 m new local jobs to be created, mostly in SMEs, with ambitious renovation programmes by 2020

"Building renovation projects are best-in-class for Strategic Investment: they offer the highest leverage, quickest roll-out and widest societal benefits" Copenhagen Economics, 2015

How many MEPs have signed the Renovate Europe Manifesto and pledged to STOP Energy Waste in Buildings?

81 MEPs have signed from **21** countries

7 political parties

Not a signatory of the Manifesto yet?

Sign the pledge to **STOP Energy Waste in Buildings** on www.renovate-europe.eu

Sources:

- Buildings under the Microscope, BPIE, 2011
- Capturing the Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency, IEA, 2014
- Deep Renovation of Buildings—An effective Way to Decrease Europe's Energy Import Dependency, Ecofys Study, 2014
- Energy Renovation: The Trump Card for the New Start for Europe, JRC—European Commission, March 2015
- Eurostat figures on energy imports
- EU 2050 Low-Carbon Economy Roadmap, European Commission
- How Many Jobs? A Survey of Employment Effects of Investment in Energy Efficiency in Buildings, EEIF, May 2012
- Multiple Benefits of Investing in Energy Efficient Renovation of Buildings—Impact on Public Finances, Copenhagen Economics, October 2012
- The Role of Building Renovation in the EU Investment Strategy, Copenhagen Economics, March 2015
- Taking Back Control—Where next for Household Energy Efficiency in the UK? E3G, February 2015
- The Business Case for Green Building, World Green Building Council, 2013



Launched in 2011, the headline ambition of the Renovate Europe Campaign is to reduce the energy demand of the building stock in the EU by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005 levels.

Contact

Renovate Europe Campaign Office
 Rond Point Schuman 6, 8th floor
 B-1040 Brussels
info@euroace.org
 Tel: +32 2 639 10 11



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