

Newsletter

[November 2007] #017

:: Editorial



In this edition of the newsletter we report on the highs and lows in the progress towards achieving increased energy efficiency. A new report by the Commission has highlighted the increase in energy demand across Europe on one hand, whilst on the other we also report on the great achievements on energy efficiency in Ireland. There have been new initiatives introduced, such as the new green guides for housing associations published in the UK, whilst others, such as the BestFacade project, come to an end. We report on the progress being made by others like the Electronic Energy Buildings Directive action and celebrate 4th anniversary of the Display Campaign. We are also happy to introduce the Buildings Platform latest partner, ECCREDI, and are pleased to provide information on a variety of new reports produced by other partners. Once

again, our events section is full with information on the next European Sustainable Energy Week and other events focusing on passive housing, energy efficiency and cogeneration, and energy and environmental law and policy. We hope you find this an interesting and useful edition.

:: Summary

> The Platform services

[Publications and downloads](#)

> Recent information from the countries

[New green guides for housing associations](#)

[Ireland records 8.1% improvement in energy efficiency levels](#)

[New country report for Finland](#)

> Europe and European funded projects

[Commission report: conventional cooling drives up electricity demand](#)

[Electronic Energy Buildings Directive](#)

[The BestFacade project has come to an end](#)

> European associated organisations/partners

[ECCREDI: European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation](#)

[U-values for Better Energy Performance of Buildings in Europe](#)

[Ecoheatcool publications](#)

[New IEA report on renewable heating and cooling](#)

[The Display campaign celebrated its 4th birthday in Brussels](#)

[The Concerted Action on the Implementation of the EPBD resumes work](#)

> Events

[Innova Energy Fair 2007](#)

[1st Nordic Passive House conference: call for papers](#)

[12th Conference on Passive Houses 2008](#)

[11th Conference on Energy Efficiency and Cogeneration](#)

[Third EU Energy and Environment Law & Policy Seminar & Conference](#)

[EPBD Conference at the European Sustainable Energy Week 2008](#)

:: The Platform services

:: Publications and downloads



The publications database has now over more than 434 documents with relevance to energy efficiency, energy performance, application of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, national transposition, etc...

By means of a search engine you can find documents on a particular country, theme of the Directive, topic or random keyword.

> To have a look at the 10 latest submitted publications see [here](#)

> To search the publications in the database click [here](#)

> To submit publications onto the database click [here](#)

:: Recent information from the countries

:: New green guides for housing associations



Two new guides have been launched to help housing associations improve the environmental performance of existing homes and develop a comprehensive sustainability strategy. The guides are available, for free, to all organisations involved in the housing sector.

> To read the full article from *Green Building* click [here](#)

:: Ireland records 8.1% improvement in energy efficiency levels



Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) has published the findings of a new report which details improvements in energy efficiency in Ireland over the ten year period 1995 -2005. The report finds that Ireland's energy efficiency improved over the decade. However, the level of improvement was reduced by the behavioural effects arising from socio-economic changes. The report, "*Energy Efficiency in Ireland 2007*" was produced by SEI's Energy Policy Statistical Support Unit (EPSSU) and is intended to inform energy efficiency policy in Ireland.

> Further information is available [here](#)

:: New country report for Finland



A new country report providing information about the implementation of the EPBD in Finland is now available. This report was produced by Maarit Haakana of the Ministry of the Environment in Finland.

> The new country report for Finland can be found [here](#)

:: Europe and European funded projects

:: Commission report: conventional cooling drives up electricity demand



A new report from the Commission's Joint Research Center shows that the demand for energy in Europe is continuously increasing in spite of the actions intended to reduce demand. Total electricity consumption in the residential, tertiary and industrial sectors increased respectively by 10.8, 15.6 and 6.6% between 1999 and 2004 for the EU 25. The report highlights the role of air-conditioning systems in the increase of electricity consumption, and the new shape of peak loads.

> This report can be downloaded [here](#)

:: Electronic Energy Buildings Directive



The objective of the EEBD action is to contribute to the take-off of the European Directive 2002/91/EC through preparation of a Web based dynamic vocational tool. This action covers the identification of the vocational training needs in the EU regions, the development of the training material and the development of an electronic tool that will provide a suitable way to obtain the technical competence that allows for a better understanding and use of the Directive 2002/91/EC and relevant national regulations.

> To learn more about the EEBD project click [here](#)

> To access the E-training on the EC Directive for Energy Performance of Buildings click [here](#)

:: The BestFacade project has come to an end



Commercial buildings with integrated Double Skin Facades (DSF) can be energy efficient buildings, but not all DSF built in the last few years perform well. Far from it, in most cases large air conditioning systems have to compensate for summer overheating problems and the energy consumption significantly exceeds the intended heating energy savings.

Therefore, the **BestFacade project**, ending in December 2007, has aimed to create a best practice guideline to actively promote the energy efficient concepts of DSF. It is based on a comprehensive survey of DSF in Europe.

The outcomes of the BestFacade project are numerous:

- A **project database** of DSF in the EU;
- **Best practice guidelines** that provide common basic scientific, technical and economic knowledge supporting the design, choice, implementation and management of DSF;
- An **assessment method** that provides a good estimate of the thermal behaviour and the energy performance of the system which is harmonised with the currently developed CEN-standards for the implementation of the EPBD;
- **Benchmarks** that allow users and operators to compare their energy consumption levels with others in the same group, set future targets and identify measures to reduce energy consumption;
- Non-technological barriers and solutions to overcome them have been identified.

The dissemination strategy of the deliverables consists of a website, CD-Roms, workshops and presentations at conferences.

> For further information click [here](#)

> To download a booklet describing the different work packages click [here](#)

:: European associated organisations / partners

:: ECCREDI: European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation



We are happy to introduce the most recent addition to our partnership base. ECCREDI, was created in Brussels in 1995 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by representatives of European organisations concerned with construction. The member-organisations represent the principal interests within construction: contractors, engineering, consultants, architects and designers, product and material producers, building control organisations, social housing providers and research bodies. The aims of ECCREDI are to contribute to the competitiveness, quality, safety and environmental performance of the construction sector and to the overall sustainability of the built environment, by increasing the extent and effectiveness of construction research, technological and process development and innovation.

> To learn more about ECCREDI click [here](#)

:: U-values for Better Energy Performance of Buildings in Europe



Eurima is about to publish a study undertaken by Ecofys: *U-values for Better Energy Performance of Buildings*. This study will be launched on 28th November 2007. One of the information packages of importance in the study is the overview of buildings' existing thermal performance requirements or recommendations of U-values in 100 cities within 31 countries in Europe which includes guideline information and boundaries.

> To access Eurima's work on U-values in Europe click [here](#)

> To download the full report visit www.eurima.org from 28th November 2007

:: Ecoheatcool publications



The final reports from the Ecoheatcool project focus on *The European Heat Market (Work package 1)* and *the European Cold Market (Work package 2)*. The *Guidelines for assessing the efficiency of district heating and district cooling systems (Work package 3)* explain the methodology for measuring the performance of district heating and cooling in buildings.

> These and other reports are available for download [here](#)

:: New IEA report on renewable heating and cooling



This timely report by the International Energy Agency examines the technologies, current markets and relative costs for heat and cold production using biomass, geothermal and solar-assisted systems. It highlights the role DHC systems can play to ensure the larger scale uptake of renewable energies and evaluates a range of national case studies and relevant policies. Should the successful and more cost-effective policies be implemented by other countries, then the relatively untapped economic potential of renewable energy heating and cooling systems could be better realised, resulting in potential doubling of the present market within the next few years.

> The report can be downloaded [here](#)

:: The Display campaign celebrated its 4th birthday in Brussels



On 11th of October 2007 the "Display® Rendezvous" was held in Brussels. The event highlighted the achievements of the European Display® Campaign. In their speeches, Gordon Sutherland and Vincent Berrutto, both from the European Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI), highlighted the importance of this Campaign in facilitating certification markets. They particularly approved the strong involvement of local authorities in the initial development and the current realisation of the Campaign.

At the end of the same day, the "Towards Class A" Awards were distributed during a ceremony, with the city of Lausanne winning the first prize.

To date, more than 6,800 buildings across Europe are involved.

> For more information, go to www.display-campaign.org

:: The Concerted Action on the Implementation of the EPBD resumes work



After conclusion of the first Concerted Action (CA) on the EPBD last June 2007, Member States (MS) and the European Commission (EC) found that this work had been extremely useful and that it should continue as MS carry out the field implementation of the EPBD up to 2009/10. After extensive preparations, Concerted Action is resuming activities in December 2007, with a meeting of all MS and the EC in Warsaw. This second phase of the CA will keep the same basic philosophy as CA1, and will mainly consist of discussions on specialized topics by experts from the participating MS to exchange ideas and address harmonization of methodologies and lessons learned.

The Warsaw meeting will also allow EU MS to get acquainted with certification and labelling procedures in use in the USA, one of the main focus of this meeting. Representatives of the USA RESNET will present their scheme, which has many similarities with the system that most EU MS are now implementing, offering many opportunities for useful exchange of experiences and methodologies.

Public reports produced by CA1 will soon be published and made available through the Buildings Platform.

> For more information visit www.epbd-ca.org

:: Events

:: Innova Energy Fair 2007



The EPBD Buildings Platform hopes to welcome you at the Innova Energy Fair in Brussels from 22 to 25 November 2007! We are located at the entrance of hall 1, stand 101. On Thursday 22nd Peter Wouters, of the daily management team, will give a presentation on the Buildings Platform at 14:00 in the main room.

> Register [here](#)

:: 1st Nordic Passive House conference: call for papers



PassivHusNorden2008 invites anyone engaged in low energy buildings and passive houses to submit a paper to the conference which will take place in Trondheim, Norway, on 2nd and 3rd April 2008. The deadline for abstracts is 1st December 2007, and submission of full papers is required by the 1st of March 2008. Papers and abstracts can be written either in Nordic languages (Swedish, Danish or Norwegian) or in English. There will be both oral and poster presentations at the conference.

> For further information click [here](#)

:: 12th Conference on Passive Houses 2008



What are the latest developments in energy efficient buildings? Which are the new technologies, systems and components for passive houses? How can research be utilised in practice? At the 12th International Conference on Passive Houses in Nuremberg (Germany) on the 11th and 12th April 2008, these questions will be answered.

> For further information click [here](#)

:: 11th Conference on Energy Efficiency and Cogeneration



The promotion of energy efficiency is currently the main emphasis of energy policy in the European Union and cogeneration is one of the most efficient measures of energy optimization. It is important to know, analyze, argue and follow the public policies on this subject and the content of the National Energy Efficiency Plan. The objective to improve energy efficiency drives the implementation of diverse technologies and systems, in particular those providing solutions of decentralized production. It is important to understand what has been developed in this area in Portugal and in the rest of Europe.

The 11th Conference on Energy Efficiency and Cogeneration will take place in Porto, Portugal, on 5th December 2007.

> A programme for this event is available [here](#)

:: Third EU Energy and Environment Law & Policy Seminar & Conference



This event brings together all the key policy makers and the most important market players to discuss the recent evolutions and newest regulations and to take a look at the future of the European energy market. This year's edition takes place in Brussels on 17th and 18th January 2008, and gives the delegates the opportunity to determine part of the programme themselves as they are able to select break-out sessions of choice.

> Further information is available [here](#)

:: EPBD Conference at the European Sustainable Energy Week 2008



The conference on *EPBD: Next steps and Stakeholders' Inputs*, organised by DG TREN and the EPBD Buildings Platform, will take place on Thursday 31st January 2008 as part of the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2008.

Details for all events related to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) can be found in this [ROADMAP](#).

> For registration to these and other events visit the [EUSEW website](#)

:: You too can submit an event!

The Buildings Platform website has an online submission form allowing organisers to upload flyers and enter details of their events. Events will then be publicised in the events database or in future Buildings Platform newsletters according to their relevance.

[> Insert your event](#)

[\[Subscribe - Unsubscribe\]](#)



Directorate-General
for Energy
and Transport

The EPBD Buildings Platform has been launched by the European Commission in the frame of the Intelligent Energy – Europe, 2003-2006 programme. It is managed by INIVE EEIG (www.inive.org), on behalf of DG TREN.

The information in this publication is subject to a Disclaimer and Copyright Notice; see www.buildingsplatform.org/legal_notices_en.html

© European Communities, 2007 / Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged