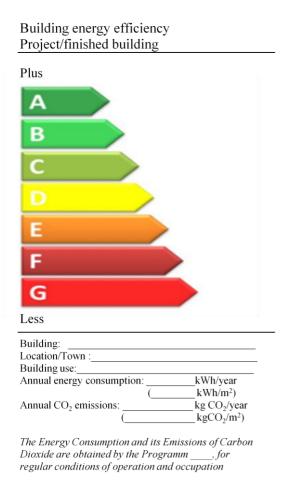




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Energy Saving as support of Building Energy Certification. Future steps.

The Building Energy Efficiency Certification is a common requirement to every European country originated by the Directive 2002/91/EC. In the Spanish case, this Directive was transposed partially into the Spanish legal regulation through the Royal Decree 47/2007, which approves the basic procedure for the energy efficiency certification of new buildings. An elaboration of another R. D. for existing buildings is expected by 2011.



The real Building Energy Consumption and its Carbon Dioxide Emissions will depend on the operation conditions of the building and the weather, among other factors. With this certificate, and by means of the energy efficiency label, an energy efficiency class is assigned to every building, which will vary from A class, for most efficient buildings, and G class, for less efficient ones.

According to the cited Directive the larger buildings occupied by a public authority or visited frequently by the public should exhibit its certificate in a highlighted and visible place for the visitors awareness, this measure will be applied in Residential and Care Houses for Elderly People (RCHEP) in Europe. Due to the latter, energy efficiency measures will serve to achieve energy savings in the RCHEP, not only for users comfort increasing and economical saving, but possibly as marketing approaching or differentiating factor in comparison with the rest of the sector.

What does future have in store for us? Once the energy consumption of this kind of buildings is minimized the next step would be the optimization of the energy impact in their life of cycle, considering the building components production impact, building up and end of life. Numerous research projects are developed following this line of work, such as "EnerBuiLCA", coordinated by CIRCE and co-financed by EU FEDER funds, inside the SUDOE Territorial Cooperation Programme – Interreg IV B.