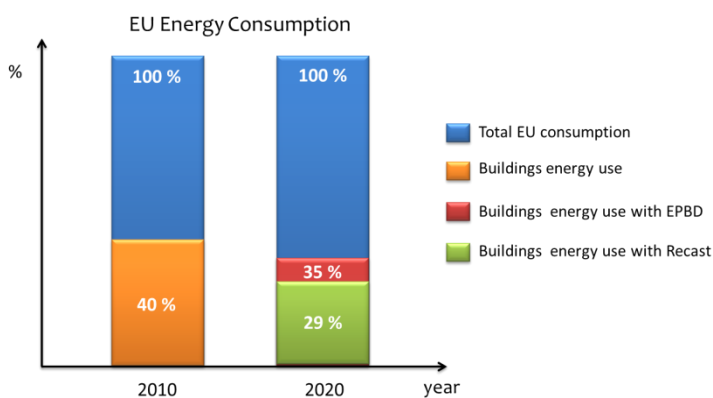


SAVE AGE and the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)



The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC) has been the driver for the establishment of energy performance ratings and certification by Member States (MS). However, shortcomings in that Directive led to a recast (2010/31/EU) to improve its effectiveness and set things clearer.

Buildings (RCHEP included) consume more than 40 % of Europe's energy use and represent 36% of its total CO₂ emissions. Nevertheless they have significant untapped potential for cost effective energy savings and the recast will reduce 11 % of EU final energy consumption in 2020.



Key measures of the recast:

- Dropping of the 1 000 m² threshold for “major refurbishment” (smaller RCHEP will also be encouraged to introduce best practice measures);
- Requirement to draw up national plans, propose measures (including, those of financial nature) and targets for increasing the number of low/zero energy buildings (starting in 2020, new RCHEP will consume virtually no energy);
- Creating an integrated methodology for measuring energy performance (SAVE AGE is working on a benchmark methodology for this matter, regarding RCHEP);
- Establishing minimum performance requirements for buildings or building units with a view to achieving cost-optimal levels (the need to establish by June 2011 a comparative methodology framework for calculating cost-optimal levels of minimum energy

performance requirements for buildings shall require MS to define energy efficiency measures to be assessed for each reference building type. SAVE AGE will help characterize RCHEP assessing the final and primary energy needs and identifying best practices whose economic life cycle costs will be further calculated)

- More rigorous procedure for issuing energy performance certificates (since RCHP are generally over 500 m² of useful area (minimum of 250 m² in 2015) and have several visits by the public, the certificate must be displayed in a clearly visible space)
 - Conducting regular inspections, by independent experts, of buildings system and establishment of penalties for non-compliance.
- MS shall set technical building systems requirements by its overall energy performance, covering:
- Heating (regular inspection for more than 20 kW),
 - Air-conditioning (regular inspection for more than 12 kW), and
 - Large ventilation systems.

MS now have until July 2012 to transpose the recast. By then SAVE AGE will have a portfolio of best practices and guidelines for energy efficiency to put into practice, helping RCHEP to save energy. Any gap exceeding 15 % between current and cost optimal requirements will have to be justified by the MS to the Commission.

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