

## RESPONSIBILITY AND MODELS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

### WHO IS IN CHARGE?

Anyone who builds or renovates a building can send out a signal for climate protection by implementing high energy efficiency standards. The energy saving potential of a well insulated house (i.e. a very low energy or passive house) is between 50 and 90 percent compared to a standard new build or existing building.

### MUNICIPALITIES AS ROLE MODELS

As owners of public buildings, such as schools, hospitals and libraries, municipalities can act as an important role model for the general public. Municipalities also have a responsibility to spend public money wisely and therefore should be ensuring that public buildings are as energy and therefore cost efficient as possible. At [www.climatealliance.org](http://www.climatealliance.org) a growing number of best practice examples on climate protection are available e.g. identified by the climate star award.

### BEST BENEFITS

"Climate Alliance" the thematic network of European cities for climate protection believes that insulation is a key measure in the field of energy efficiency in buildings. In cold and hot regions alike, insulation represents a secure investment with both financial and ecological benefits.



CLIMATE ALLIANCE  
KLIMA-BÜNDNIS  
ALIANZA DEL CLIMA

The "Climate Alliance" is Europe's largest city network dedicated to climate protection. Founded in 1990 its mission is to elaborate and implement local climate action plans especially in the fields of energy and transport. The member cities commit to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions by 10% every 5 years.

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Eurima is the European Insulation Manufacturers Association and represents the interests of all major mineral wool insulation producers throughout Europe. Eurima members employ over 20,000 people across Europe, with the installation of insulation products accounting for an estimated 300,000 man-years; Eurima members manufacture mineral wool insulation products. These products are used in residential and commercial buildings as well as industrial facilities. Glass and stone wool insulation secure a high level of comfort, low energy costs and minimised CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Mineral wool insulation prevents heat loss through roofs, walls, floors, pipes and boilers, reduces noise pollution and protects homes and industrial facilities from the risk of fire.

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KEEP COOL

STAY WARM



INSULATE!!

# HOT ISSUES

BUILDINGS WASTE BILLIONS

40%

The amount of Europe's total energy consumption that is used by buildings. Half of this energy use could be saved through simple measures such as insulation.

270  
billion

The amount of Euro that a lack of energy efficiency in buildings costs Europe every year.

3.3  
million

The barrels of oil equivalent that could be saved every day through efficient energy use in buildings.

460  
million

The tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions that could be reduced each year from buildings.

530,000

The number of jobs that could be created through an ambitious strategy to improve energy efficiency in buildings.

0

The number of reasons for not acting now to seize this potential.

# COOL SOLUTIONS

A BETTER REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

## REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

It is time to turn the heat up, put in place renovation requirements for existing buildings and enjoy the cool benefit of unlocking Europe's biggest energy saving potential.

## COST-EFFECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

It is not cool for Europe's citizens to lose billions of Euro each year due to poor energy efficiency requirement for buildings. It's about time that such requirements were based on tomorrow's energy and climate challenges rather than yesterday's low energy costs.

## AN ACTIVE APPROACH TO VERY LOW ENERGY BUILDINGS

It is time for action to ensure that new buildings keep cool and stay warm all by both a minimum of carbon dioxide emissions and very low energy consumption. An active strategy is needed to make this happen and to combine energy efficiency and renewable energy.



A SUPPORTING STRUCTURE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE

## MONEY MATTERS

Saving money every year certainly sounds like a cool idea but it takes hot cash to pay for the saving measures at the beginning. Governments must intervene to provide upfront financing support.

## HELP IS NEEDED

Energy efficiency may be a hot topic but for consumers it remains a daunting task to turn interest into action. Governments must provide real support to individuals to help them put energy efficiency first.

## MIND THE GAP

The cold hard fact is that there is a skills gap among building professionals when it comes to energy efficiency. Action across the EU is needed to bridge this gap and to transform the sector from energy wasters to climate savers.

## MAKING FACTS VISIBLE: THE ICE BLOCK BET

The "Ice Block Bet" event aims to highlight the large potential to reduce costs, energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by installing thermal insulation.

A huge block of ice, between one and two tons was inserted in a very well insulated cabin. For up to three months the ice block was exposed to spring and summer weather conditions. In 2007 more than fifty cities in Germany took part as well as others in Austria, Italy and France. But how much of the ice melted over a four week period and how much was left? Take a guess and make a bet by filling out the available postcards at the Climate Alliance/Eurima stand on the ground floor of the Charlemagne Building in Brussels, during the European Sustainable Energy Week.

