

Press Statement

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A climate-neutral building stock

Mineral wool's important contribution to bringing EU greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050

Today, Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, has released a **new position paper** entitled "*A climate-neutral building stock: Mineral wool's important contribution to bringing EU greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050*". The building stock is vital in the transition to climate neutrality. No other sector in the EU uses more energy or emits more carbon dioxide. And no other sector offers such a huge opportunity to make a positive difference to people's lives.

Buildings have a climate impact in two ways: (i) with 'operational' emissions from the energy needed while they are in use, for example to heat, cool and light buildings, and (ii) with 'embodied' emissions produced during the manufacture of materials, the construction of buildings and ultimate end-of-life disposal.

Operational emissions account for the clear majority of the total life cycle greenhouse gas emissions of the **existing building stock**. For **new construction**, embodied emissions represent a large, and growing, share of total life cycle emissions. This has to change.

As European mineral wool producers we want to be agents of this change by reducing operational and embodied building emissions to net-zero by 2050.

How can this be done? First, we are committed to accelerating building renovation. As most of the buildings that will be used in 2050 have already been built, it is essential that we cut their energy use through deep renovation. Mineral wool is the most widely used building insulation material in Europe.

Secondly, we must tackle the increasing share of embodied emissions. For our industry this means lowering our carbon footprint and reducing CO₂ in production.

To realise a climate-neutral building stock, supportive policies should be put in place that:

- **Make the deep renovation of buildings a flagship initiative of the European Green Deal.**
- **Set criteria for both operational and embodied emissions in the transition to net-zero carbon buildings.**
- **Ensure that the carbon price is sufficiently high to incentivize industry decarbonisation, while avoiding carbon leakage.**
- **Put energy efficiency first and make energy efficiency mandatory for industry.**
- **Ensure access to secure and affordable decarbonised energy.**
- **Establish a circular economy action plan for the construction sector.**
- **Make innovation funding available.**

The new [policy briefing](#) sets out our current thinking on how the climate impact of buildings can be addressed. It will be followed by a more detailed roadmap on how to realise climate-neutrality in our sector over the course of 2050.



For further information, please read our position paper '[A climate-neutral building stock](#)', our action plan with recommendations '[Better Buildings for a Better Future](#)' and our paper '[Why including buildings in the EU ETS is not the right tool to deliver energy-efficient homes](#)'.