

Barriers and Solutions

Increased energy efficiency in buildings is a “win/win” proposition for all. However, as things stand, it is not happening at sufficient speed and depth to enable the EU to meet its policy objectives.

As a result, the priority areas of EuroACE activity are:

- **Political will.** Buildings are responsible for the largest proportion of energy use in the EU. It therefore goes without saying that buildings have to be a core part of energy efficiency policies across the EU. For that, increased energy efficiency of buildings needs to be integrated into a broad range of policy areas at many levels of governance. Only through political intervention can we achieve the step change in the performance of buildings that is needed in the EU.
- **Mandatory energy efficiency targets for the building sector.** Experience shows that vigorous action rarely takes place at Member State level unless it is imposed. It is essential that national binding energy efficiency targets are set for new buildings and for the energy efficient renovation of the EU building stock.
- **Energy efficient renovation of the existing building stock.** Over 90% of our current building stock will still be standing and occupied in 2050. It is therefore not enough to look only at new buildings: to achieve the EU 2050 carbon reduction and energy efficiency targets, it is essential to also have ambitious goals for what is already standing. The long-term strategies to achieve this goal need to be put in place today.
- **Financial support.** Research shows that well-designed schemes to incentivise energy savings are the most cost-effective means for Member States to achieve extensive savings, to create growth and jobs in the construction sector and to achieve real benefits in health and productivity. This approach is definitely more beneficial than increasing energy supply. Mechanisms must be put in place to ensure an increased use of fiscal instruments by Member States for energy efficiency in buildings for the benefit of end users.
- **Enforcement of legislation.** It is no good creating ambitious legislation at EU level if it is not transposed and implemented correctly at Member State level. Too often, this is the case. Greater scrutiny by the EU Commission is needed, including stronger sanctions.
- **Communication, motivation and education.** Many building owners and occupants remain largely unaware of the potential economic benefits of improving the energy efficiency of their buildings. Imaginative communication strategies that will stimulate awareness, motivation and understanding must be put in place.

With full commitment in these areas by the EU institutions, Member States and affected stakeholders, we can unlock the substantial improvement in the energy efficiency of our buildings that is already technically possible.

Only about 1.2% of the EU building stock is renovated each year and only about 0.1% is demolished each year. Even if all current renovations incorporated the highest standards of energy efficiency, this rate would not be sufficient to meet the EU's energy efficiency target for 2020, nor would it tap the huge potential for reducing the energy demand in our existing buildings over the long-term.

Two important things need to happen if this situation is to be corrected:

- **First,** European countries need to develop long-term renovation roadmaps for the deep renovation of their building stock with a target of reducing energy demand from the stock by 80% by 2050 as compared to a 2005 baseline. In practice, whenever building renovation takes place, all available, efficient energy saving technologies should be incorporated, either at once or in planned stages.
- **Second,** the rate of energy efficient renovation of buildings in the EU must be increased to 3% per year before 2020.

With a solid political commitment over the period to 2050, the energy efficiency industry can deliver.

An innovative political vision, commitment and roadmap for delivery are urgently needed. With these, the EU can achieve its energy-related policy targets. Together, we can Renovate Europe and reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050.

EuroACE initiated the Renovate Europe Campaign in 2011, joining forces with other organisations and stakeholders. The Renovate Europe Campaign works to communicate the above priority objectives to European decision-makers. For more information and to support this campaign, go to: www.renovate-europe.eu

EuroACE, the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings, works to promote energy efficiency in buildings in all relevant EU policies. **EuroACE** was formed by Europe's leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of a variety of energy saving goods and services.

The mission of **EuroACE** is to work together with the European Institutions and other stakeholders to help the EU move towards an efficient use of energy in buildings, thereby contributing to the EU's commitments on carbon emission reductions, job creation and energy security.

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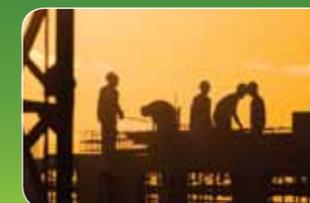
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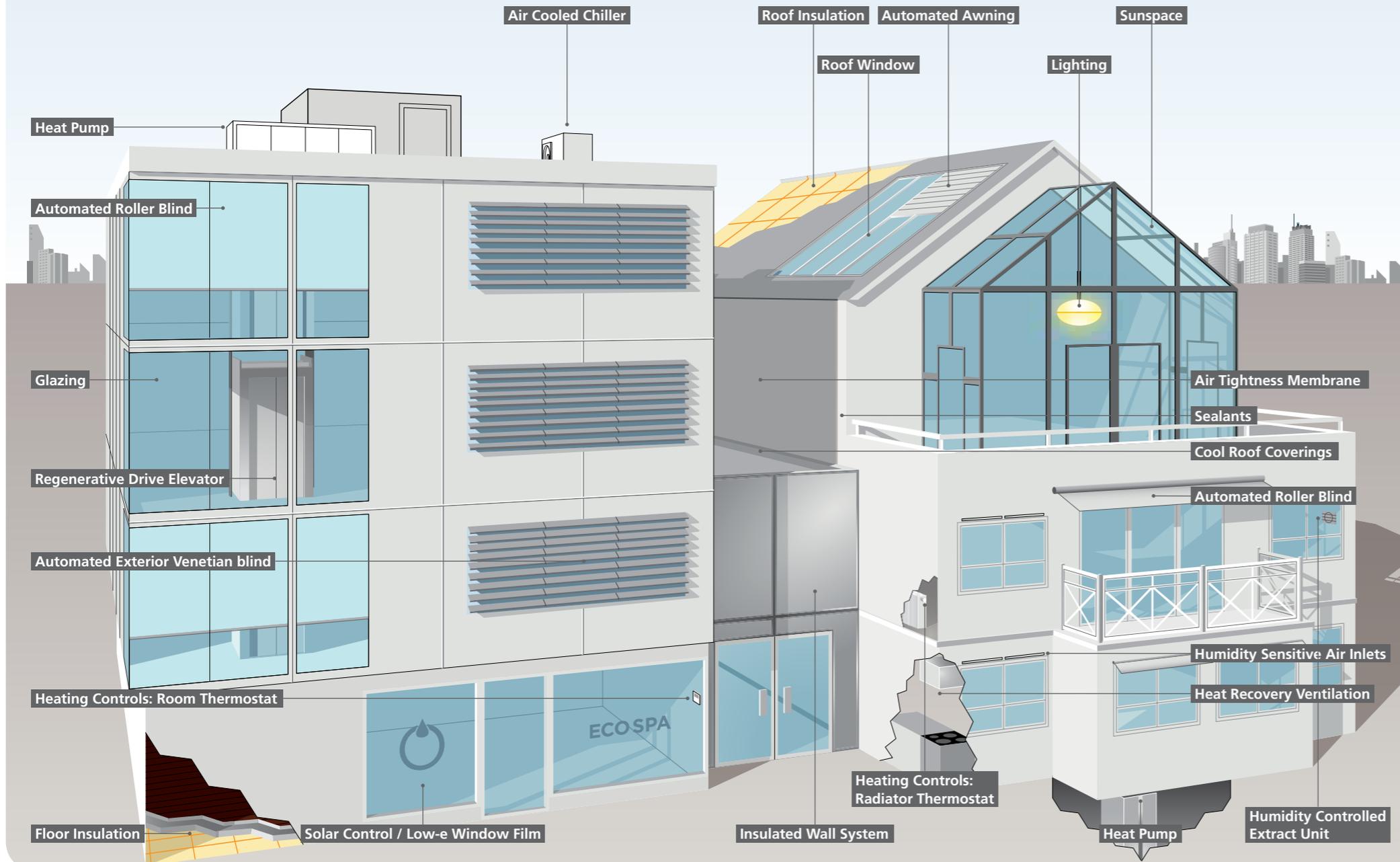
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Energy Efficiency in Buildings



The most cost-effective route for Europe to achieve its energy-saving, climate change, economic and energy security goals

Technologies for improving the *Energy Efficiency of Buildings* exist today providing a negative cost solution for building owners across Europe



Energy Efficiency in Buildings must remain central to EU policies

Energy efficiency is key to delivering many of the economic, social, environmental, energy and security policy objectives of the EU.

Buildings have the biggest role to play as they consume more energy than any other sector. This means that the realistic potential for energy savings in buildings is very significant.

These savings are deliverable, economically. By using energy saving materials and technologies that are readily available now, we could reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock to a fraction of current levels.



Improving the energy efficiency of buildings:

- **Is the most solid way to prepare our economies for a sustainable energy transition**, through reducing energy demand in buildings
- **Achieves climate change objectives**, through lower carbon emissions
- **Increases energy security**, by reducing our demand for imported energy
- **Creates employment**, by increasing local and SME jobs to design, produce and install energy efficient solutions
- **Improves the quality of the indoor environment**, because buildings become more habitable, comfortable, attractive and easier to maintain
- **Assists in economic regeneration**, by requiring less expenditure on fuel and increases property values
- **Improves public finances in the short, medium and long run**, because energy efficiency brings more to our State budgets than it costs
- **Reduces fuel poverty**, by reducing the cost for the poor to heat their homes.