

NGOs Checklist for a successful EPBD Recast

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) recast is a once-in-a-generation opportunity because any ambitious choice made now on our buildings will have positive and long-lasting environmental and socio-economic impacts. **A successful revision must recognise the importance of the Directive beyond buildings for driving down lifecycle energy use and emissions for our environment, societies and economies.** In this sense, the revised EPBD needs to represent a long-term structural response to the ongoing energy crisis by enabling future energy security and mitigating the climate crisis by reducing around 40% of EU emissions by 2050¹.

In the current challenging situation, Member States must put forward strong short-term relief measures to protect all consumers, especially the most vulnerable ones. From a medium to long-term perspective, **the potential of the EPBD must be grasped**, as deep energy renovations will reduce the energy needs of our building stock at the source of demand. Doing so will also lift millions of European families out of energy poverty and protect them for many winters to come. To achieve this, Member States need a clear trajectory and a strong regulatory framework that **supports and accompanies long-term and structural actions.** **The EPBD has the potential to address many of our current and future questions, so can policymakers risk repeating history by missing this flagship opportunity?**

“Governments need to distribute funds appropriately between short-term alleviations and near-term, permanent solutions such as the energy renovation of buildings, as well as an accelerated roll-out of clean, renewable energy. As a result, we expect benefits for climate, environment, health, and economic benefits. According to the Renovate Europe Campaign, 18,000 jobs will be created per €1 billion invested in energy efficiency. These are local, long-term jobs stimulating economic activity across the EU.”

In view of the Energy Council meeting of the 25th of October, where Energy Minister will decide upon the EPBD General Approach, the signatories of this statement agree that the five key performance indicators listed below are crucial for the EPBD Recast to be a true energy and climate success:

- ✓ **The EPBD provides an ambitious framework to reduce buildings’ related energy use**
The Recast finally elevates the **EPBD to be a top-tier element of the fit-for-55 package** and the achievement of EU and international climate goals by guaranteeing that the main source of energy use and GHG emissions in Europe is tackled directly.
- ✓ **A Whole Life Carbon (WLC) regulatory roadmap is established for reducing energy consumption and emissions associated with all stages of buildings’ lifespan**
This includes the mining, manufacturing, and transporting construction materials alongside energy-use carbon emissions, following a WLC approach. **Greening the energy mix and materials used for buildings requires the introduction of Measurement, Reporting, Benchmarking, Targets, and Limits across the entire EU**, in turn minimizing carbon emissions on the way to climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest
- ✓ **A comprehensive Paris-aligned framework to support energy renovation of buildings is established and driven by Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS).**
As the cost of past inaction is high and rising in the building sector, **MEPS should keep the focus on the worst-performing homes** (especially where the lowest income groups live) to ensure that the pressures of the energy crisis are not repeated in the next decade. Furthermore, they should be designed so that the current **annual deep renovations rates triple and enable all buildings to achieve energy efficiency and consumption levels compatible with EU climate goals reducing operational emissions in line with the 2050 neutrality goal.**

¹ The time to act is now as inaction in the building sector in the past years has cost the EU already [four years](#) of potential progress towards the climate neutrality goal (BPIE 2022)

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- ✓ **A strong mandate for ambitious, targeted requirements for energy and climate hotspots.**
Measures at the EU level and those available to Member States should target energy-use and emissions hotspots of all key operations for building use, especially heating and cooling. **Minimum environmental performance requirements, a comprehensive range of incentives for the rollout of clean, renewable energy for buildings, and bans on installing fossil-fuel heating systems in buildings² are all essential.**
- ✓ **Financing is made available and easily accessible**
Effective financing requires combining **public and private funding** to implement operational and inclusive tools. Outreach and advisory support measures and schemes, such as one-stop shops,³ are needed to support and guide renovation efforts at the local level. In addition, targeted funding is needed to subsidize renovations, especially for low-income households living in the worst-performing buildings. To illustrate, Mortgage Portfolio Standards will drive the average EPC rating of a mortgage lender's portfolio up. To ensure they are beneficial for low-income, implementing private financial instruments must be coupled with publicly funded guarantee funds and revolving funds that address upfront costs. Those will act as stepping stones for low-income households.

Our organizations call on policymakers to rise to the challenge and deliver this environmental checklist for a successful EPBD that serves people and the planet.



² Which should start as of 2025 in line with the findings of IEA's 'Net Zero by 2050' [Roadmap](#) (2022)

³ See latest [briefing](#) entitled 'Speeding up the Delivery of Energy Renovation: Investing in Advisory Services and One-stop-Shops' (Renovate Europe Campaign, E3G 2022)