

REDay2016: Energy Renovation is the “people’s policy”

Renovate Europe held its sixth edition of Renovate Europe Day (REDay) on 13th October in Brussels, attended by over 100 participants and under the patronage of the Slovak Presidency of the EU, with a focus on how achieving an NZEB building stock by 2050 can boost EU jobs, growth and SMEs and increase benefits to EU citizens and businesses.

Ahead of the upcoming legislative proposals and on the back of the Paris agreement which relies on a significant scale-up of energy renovation in the EU, Renovate Europe Day highlighted how energy renovation is a topic which has a **direct and tangible impact on EU citizens**.

*“Energy renovation is often dismissed as a technical topic, but it actually **goes straight to the heart of every EU citizens. These are people’s homes, people’s hospitals, people’s schools we are talking about**”, explained Adrian Joyce, Director of the Renovate Europe Campaign, “and these are **people’s jobs and people’s SMEs that we are aiming to boost. We need a long-term vision of an NZEB building stock by 2050 in order to deliver on people’s expectations and improve their wellbeing**”.*

Legislation is the main driver for the renovation market, which needs a clear long-term vision to trigger investment. The revisions of the EPBD and EED offer the opportunity to enshrine a long-term vision in legislation, and to emphasize the **need to prioritise the reduction of energy demand over decarbonisation**, to ensure citizens reap the benefits. *“Citizens will enjoy the benefits of a living in a highly energy efficient home because it will also be a healthy, comfortable home. A decarbonised leaky building will not deliver those benefits,”* explained Adrian Joyce.

The **motivation to achieve an NZEB building stock** was clearly demonstrated at REday2016 by first-hand contributions from four innovative models, **already stimulating increased employment** on the ground. **Belgium’s RenoWATT** set up a one-stop model including technical and financial support, motivated by the potential to maintain and/or create up to 16 000 jobs over the next 30 years if 60% of Wallonia’s buildings were to be renovated. Other examples included **UK’s RetrofitWorks**, based on a cooperative structure; an **ESCO model in Croatia** which undertook the deep renovation of an old hospital without disturbance to the patients; and **France’s Picardie Pass Rénovation**, whose tailored independent advice and financing solutions for owners has mobilised almost 650 local companies.

The **European Parliament** also showed its enthusiasm for applying EU legislation on a practical level in its own buildings ([see Vice-President MEP Ulrike Lunacek’s video](#)). **The EP has called for achieving an NZEB building stock by 2050 in its recent Gierek and Pieper Reports.**

The morning conference of REday2016 was followed by visits of two renovation projects in the framework of the Bâtiment Exemplaires programme run by Bruxelles Environnement. Find out more about BatEx [here](#).

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Additional information about the Renovate Europe Campaign

The Renovate Europe Campaign (REC) is a political communications campaign that was established in 2011. It brings together companies and associations that are convinced of the huge benefits to the EU economy and society of reducing the energy demand of existing buildings. In fact its objectives are to:

1. Reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005. This will bring the energy performance of the entire building stock in the EU to an NZEB performance level.
2. Increase the rate of renovation in the EU from the current level of about 1% to reach 3% by 2020 and maintain that rate until 2050
3. Ensure that all renovations are deep or staged deep renovations that capture the full cost effective potential in each project
4. Encourage the formulation and implementation of an effective long-term policy and legal framework for the achievement of the headline objectives of the REC

There are currently 35 partner companies and associations actively engaged in the work of the REC. These include 13 national partners from 13 Member States.

Since its inception, the REC has been active in building knowledge and awareness of the potential of the existing building stock in the EU to significantly contribute to the economic, social and environmental challenges facing the EU. It is also vocal on demonstrating that the sector can also contribute meaningfully, in the short-, medium- and long-term to securing our energy future through a sizable reduction in overall energy demand across the EU.

Partners of the Campaign (October 2016) are:



The **Renovate Europe Campaign** is an initiative of EuroACE, the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings. Its headline ambition is to reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005 levels

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