

MARRAKECH TASK FORCE, LEAD COUNTRY FINLAND
SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION (SBC)
Initiative of the Ministry of the Environment of Finland

Helsinki 20 September 2006

POLICY ACTION POINTS

Recommendations related to energy consumption in the built environment

The following recommendations result from consultations among the core group of the Task Force, with representatives from Australia (State of Victoria), China, Finland, France, Lithuania, Mexico, South Africa (City of Cape Town), Sweden, and the US.

The recommendations are grounded on the fact that worldwide 30-40% of all energy is used in buildings. Most (80-90%) of this energy is consumed during the operational phase for heating, cooling and lighting of the buildings. Even if we lack data on building stock and its energy use, it is certain that, due to rapid urbanization, the energy consumption of the building sector is on the rise.

Because of the huge energy saving potential of the building sector, fully aware of the broad range of other sustainability issues linked with buildings and construction, the Task Force has identified the following energy-related priority areas:

1. New construction, primarily to optimize the efficiency during use and in maintenance
2. Refurbishment, primarily to increase awareness about the need to refurbish existing buildings for energy efficiency
3. Access to financing, primarily to raise awareness about potential cost savings
4. Changing consumption patterns, primarily to develop campaigns and incentives to influence human behaviour in energy consumption

Goals of and political arguments for the priorities are

- Need to combat climate change
- Need to save money in new construction, maintenance, use of buildings and refurbishment
- Need to combat poverty, raise the standard of living and secure healthy living environments.

Role of the public sector in providing policies and guidelines is

- to set an example in energy issues and create markets by encouraging all government agencies and public organizations to initiate and implement energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energy programmes
- to introduce energy efficiency criteria into public procurement (of construction, buildings, and their maintenance and renovation)
- to integrate climate change and energy efficiency aspects in urban development policies
- to structure financial incentives to support building activities that take a long-term energy efficiency perspective and facilitate the transition to renewables
- to collect (energy consumption and production) data and establish baseline information in order to assess the impact of policies.

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Annex: The four priority action areas, in more detail

1. New construction

- strengthen focus on *maintenance and operation* of existing and future buildings as key to energy efficiency, energy savings and use of renewables
- mainstream low-energy and zero-energy construction, including passive technologies
- support housing schemes that raise the standard of living and are based on energy efficient technologies and renewables, local materials and local labor.

2. Refurbishment

- raise awareness about the need to refurbish existing buildings for energy efficiency
- develop industrialized solutions for “*mass implementation*” of the retrofit of existing buildings, including housing, to make them more energy efficient and use renewables

3. Access to financing

- raise awareness about the *added value* that can be gained through increased energy efficiency (e.g. using energy certificates as tools)
- develop and mainstream models for *affordable housing*, including processes and funding mechanisms
- create *employment* with incentives to retrofit existing buildings to conserve energy
- use investment incentives for local energy production from renewable energy sources, integrated into buildings, and secure the development of resource neutral distribution systems.

4. Changing consumption patterns

- include into economic calculations health externalities of improving indoor air quality
- initiate public awareness campaigns to influence human behaviour in energy consumption.