

Article 4 renovation strategy UK



Description of the programme/ measure

The overarching approach to energy efficient renovation for both domestic and nondomestic buildings consists of:

- Making buildings more thermally efficient through better insulation and improved airtightness
- Improving the efficiency of heating systems through the use of more efficient boilers, and supporting the transition to lower carbon and renewable energy fuels and technologies
- Reducing electricity use through improved energy management systems and technologies, enabled by the introduction of smart meters and more efficient energy services within buildings

The mechanisms to achieve this are through:

- Supplier obligations
- Building regulations and minimum energy performance standards for tenants
- Finance
- Smart Metering

Critical success factors

Government policy works to stimulate the market for energy efficiency to help achieve the programs objectives. A long-term policy framework and targets help to remove barriers to take up and stimulate investment in research and innovation of new technologies. The barriers to be overcome are:

- Embryonic (small) energy efficiency markets
- Provision of trusted information and advice
- Misaligned financial incentives
- Undervaluing of energy efficiency

Innovation

UK Government is investing in research to develop the best technologies. Several bodies and funds set up:

- InnovateUK: www.innovateuk.gov.uk/
- Energy Technologies Institute www.eti.co.uk/
- [Energy Entrepreneurs Fund](#)

Key achievements

- Building regulations have achieved ongoing replacement of inefficient boilers that have contributed to a significant reduction in domestic energy use.
- All of the supplier obligation targets met and exceeded as part of phases 1,2 and 3 of the [Energy Company Obligation](#)
- Implementation of the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard Regulations for the Private Rented Sector (April 2016)
- Provision of the Energy Saving Advice Service – a telephone advice line providing independent advice on energy efficiency refurbishment – receives on average more [than 20,000 calls a month](#).
- Step by step energy efficiency scheme “[Warmer Homes Scotland](#)” launched covering advice to installation
- Funding for household energy efficiency targeted at the worst performing homes through the [Nest](#) scheme in Wales.

Lesson learned

- The integration of Energy Performance Certificates into the assessment of the suitability of homes for refurbishment and identifying the most cost effective measures has worked successfully within the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation scheme.
- However low uptake residential sector of Green Deal Finance has show that the able to pay market requires a mix of complimentary policy measures to drive demand and enable action.



Final comments

Article 4a)

UK provided a comprehensive and very detailed statistical overview of the building stock for Art 4 a) which was highlighted as good practice within the [JRC Synthesis report](#)

A good overview of the energy performance of UK buildings has enabled the UK to understand where the most cost effective opportunities for refurbishment are and how to tailor programs to target these opportunities.

Energy performance of dwellings is surveyed annually as part of the [English Housing Survey](#). This in combination with data on energy use at a [national](#) and [building level](#) help to support and refurbishment and forward looking investment decisions.

Further information

- UK's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and Building Renovation Strategy:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-national-energy-efficiency-action-plan-and-building-renovation-strategy>
- UK housing energy fact file:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/united-kingdom-housing-energy-fact-file-2013>

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