

# Consumer Information Tools BUILDINGS



Buildings cause emissions of greenhouse gases during construction, use, and demolition. Including construction, the sector accounts for almost 39% of global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Information tools related to buildings can inform decision making related to (a) the energy-efficiency of measures, and the contractor of choice, (b) the characteristics of materials used for construction, and (c) the outcome in terms of the building's future energy requirements.

To help consumers adjust their behavior and increase carbon literacy, certifications should become more harmonized and include procedural knowledge such as practical advice on how to save energy. Inconsistencies in certifications, for instance with regard to system boundaries chosen for life cycle analysis, should be addressed through a multi-stakeholder effort. More aligned and comparable information tools can further advance their uptake and capacity to drive behaviour change.

Major barriers to certifications for buildings:

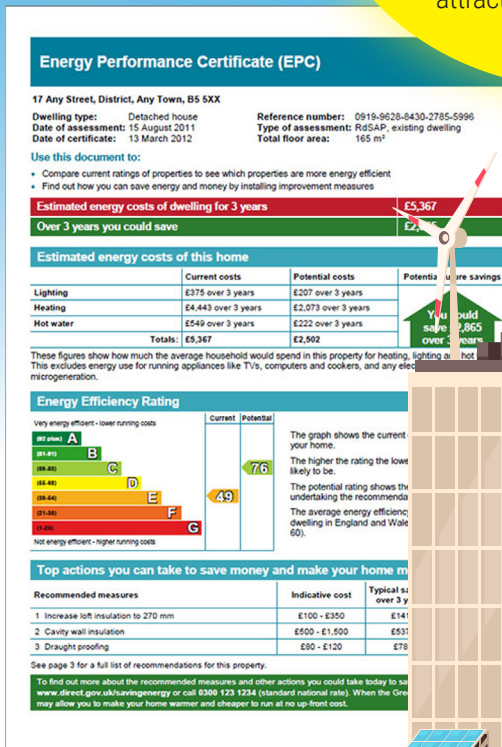
- Lack of knowledge from businesses
- Amount of work involved in compliance
- Perceived expenses

**How to overcome these problems?**

Legislated certifications could be a solution. For example, information on the energy-efficiency of buildings is mandatory in the European Union. Studies even show that energy labels can increase property value.

## Example of energy performance certification

The Energy Performance Certificate shows how efficiency ratings influence energy cost. It associates an economic benefit with the energy efficiency standard, providing a tangible benefit. This increases the attractiveness of low-energy housing.



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