



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Towards Energy-efficient Homes in the UNECE region

Draft outline

Rationale

Improving energy efficiency in residential buildings comes with multiple benefits: refurbished housing stock and, hence, improved standard of living and health of occupants; reduced occupants-related expenses and energy poverty, increased energy security through lower national energy demand as well as mitigated levels of greenhouse gases emissions and support of a green transformation of the economy through the creation of green jobs¹.

The *Action Plan on Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE region*² outlines policy areas and recommends actions for national governments to remove existing barriers for improved energy performance of buildings.

According to the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management Programme of Work, a series of energy efficiency training workshops in different regions of the UNECE will be organized in 2013-15 to disseminate the Action Plan and help governments implement it in national legislation and set-up the legal and financial institutional framework for more energy-efficient homes.

Objectives

This Training Workshop specifically addresses challenges and opportunities of improving the energy-efficiency of homes and condominiums in the countries of two sub-regions of UNECE region, specifically Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and Caucasus. Its major objective is to assist the governments of these regions in developing National Action Plans for energy efficiency in the housing sector.

Different thematic sessions will:

- Present and review existing policy guidelines at UN and EU level, EU directives and regulations on residential buildings;
- Illustrate region specific challenges and opportunities to realize an energy-efficient housing sector, including condominiums and solar energy use;
- Learn about financial instruments and potential sources of funding for SEE countries;
- Develop, in an interactive and participatory process, the National Action Plan for energy efficiency in the residential sector.

Clusters of discussion

Discussions of the training workshop will evolve around the following topics to guide the discussions:

1. Major challenges – which are the major challenges in developing energy efficient residential sector, in the fields of policy, legislation and regulations, financial instruments and sources, technical capacities, enforcing the implementation of regulations, ability of households to afford costs of retrofitting, etc..
2. Priority actions – What are the initial steps for developing a framework policy for energy efficiency housing? Which set of legislation should be in place? How to leverage funds? How to use the banking sector?

¹ UNECE (2009): Green Homes: Towards energy-efficient housing in the UNECE region. <http://bit.ly/yN5z37>

² UNECE (2011): Action Plan for Energy-Efficient Housing in the UNECE region. <http://bit.ly/yxkPa7>

3. One region, similar challenges, transferable solutions? - What we can learn from other countries in creating a clear path for policy reforms?
4. Action Plan – What should be done, by whom, when, what financial resources,

Topics of discussions:

1. Policy framework and legislation;
2. Financial instruments;
3. Energy performance standards and technology integration;
4. Technical requirements for new constructions;
5. Refurbishment of existing housing stock;
6. Ability to afford new energy efficient houses and refurbishment of existing stock;
7. Education and capacity building

Contact

If you need more information or if you wish to participate as a speaker, please contact:

Ms. Gulnara Roll

Head of the Housing and Land Management Unit

UNECE

Tel. +41 22 91 -72257

Email: [Gulnara.Roll @unece.org](mailto:Gulnara.Roll@unece.org)