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Renewable heat in Germany: current legal framework and prospects for further developments

Conférence sur la chaleur renouvelable au service de la transition énergétique

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Energy Efficiency Strategy for Buildings

- The Federal Government wants to make Germany's building stock virtually climate-neutral by 2050.
 - In order to do this, more of our heating needs to be covered by renewables and our buildings made more energy-efficient.
 - The Energy Efficiency Strategy for Buildings sets out a comprehensive strategy for this sector. It brings together the three aspects of electricity, heat and energy efficiency and provides a clear policy framework for the energy transition in the buildings sector.
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European Legislation

- Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 **on the energy performance of buildings.**
 - Member States shall ensure that after 31 December 2018, new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities; and by 31 December 2020, all new buildings are **nearly zero-energy buildings.**
 - **NZEB** → “A building that has a very high energy performance, (...). The nearly zero or very low amount of energy required should be covered to a very significant extent by energy from renewable sources, including energy from renewable sources produces on-site or nearby.
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European Legislation

- Directive 2009/28/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the **promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (...)**. → **Article 13 paragraph 4**
 - Increasing the share of all kinds of energy from renewable sources in the building sector.
 - “Member States shall, in their building regulations and codes or by other means with equivalent effect, where appropriate, require the use of minimum levels of energy from renewable sources in new buildings and in existing buildings that are subject to major renovations”.
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Energy Conservation Act / Energy Conservation Ordinance

- Energy efficiency requirements for buildings orientated towards the state of the art and economic efficiency.
 - Increasing primary energy requirements benefit renewable heat.
 - The new building standard (valid since 2016) is a step towards the nearly zero-energy building.
 - A provision defining the standard for nearly zero-energy buildings is still required.
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Renewable Energies Heat Act

- The Act is expected to help raise the share of renewable energy in the heat sector to 14 percent by the year 2020.
 - The Act obliges owners to cover part of the heat demand of new buildings from renewable energy.
 - In view of its exemplary function the public sector is obliged to use renewable energy also in in full-scale renovation projects for its building stock.
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Further development of energy conservation legislation

- The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety have presented the **draft of the Act on energy conservation and the use of renewable energy for heating and cooling in buildings (Energy in Buildings Act)**.
 - The Work on the Energy in Buildings Act will continue.
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Draft of the Energy in Buildings Act

- Bundling the Renewable Energies Heat Act and the Energy Conservation Act / Energy Conservation Ordinance in one document.
 - A harmonised regulatory system of energy requirements for new and existing buildings as well as the use of renewable energies for heating.
 - Definition of the nearly zero-energy building standard for new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities.
 - More effective Enforcement.
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Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Energie

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Thanks a lot!
