

BUILDING BETTER REGULATION

Knauf Insulation has always campaigned to improve energy efficiency policies for buildings. Why? Because regulation drives positive change.

King Hammurabi didn't have time for dangerous buildings, so he wrote the first building code. And it got to the point quickly.

"If a builder has built a house for a man and his work is not strong, and that house falls and kills the householder, that builder shall be slain."

Harsh but fair? Perhaps. But this was Babylon in 1758 BC. And such a Directive would have certainly 'incentivised' the industry to seriously consider best practice, real performance, safeguarding customers and making life better for everyone who uses buildings.

Almost 4,000 years later, incentivising building improvement through new policies is more important than ever. That is why at Knauf Insulation we campaign to upgrade and improve building laws at every level across the world — although with a more liberal approach than King Hammurabi.

"Our focus has always been on driving regulation that improves the energy efficiency of buildings because — simply — this makes everything better, for everyone," says Siân Hughes, our Director of External Affairs.

"Naturally, regulation also inspires and drives change. If tackling issues of energy efficiency were left to the market, well, not enough would be done, at least at the rate needed. Regulation puts a rocket behind the concept."

The impact of relentless campaigning with our industry partners and other energy efficiency stakeholders combined with greater public and political awareness has been particularly successful in Europe.

A few decades ago, energy efficiency was barely a footnote in European energy policies. Today it is at the

core of the 'Clean Energy for All Europeans' package of measures designed to reduce energy use by 30% by 2030.

The concept of 'Energy Efficiency First' plays a critical role in Europe's Energy Union strategy and energy efficiency is regarded as a key way in which Europe can safeguard its commitment to the Paris Agreement to keep global warming 'well below' 2°C by 2050.

Europe has come a long way and at Knauf Insulation we want to drive the energy efficiency agenda even further. King Hammurabi would certainly approve.

THE RISE AND RISE OF BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EUROPEAN POLICY

1993

The Directive to Limit Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Improving Energy Efficiency (known as SAVE) called on Member States to limit emissions by implementing programmes that focused on the energy certification of buildings, the billing of heating and cooling costs based on consumption, the thermal insulation of new buildings and energy audits of high industrial energy consumption.

2002

The first Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) is inspired by the need to manage building energy use in line with the Kyoto Protocol to curb emissions. The word 'efficiency' is mentioned nine times in the Directive and topics focus on air-conditioning, boilers and heat pumps, rather than the building envelope.

2010

The revised EPBD sets — for the first time — a target that new buildings must be nearly zero-energy by 2020. The word 'efficiency' now appears 43 times. Unfortunately, renovation of the existing building stock is only marginally tackled in the Directive. As a result, the building industry launches the Renovate Europe Campaign in 2011.

REGULATION DRIVES IMPROVEMENT

"Now, thanks mainly to regulation or policy, when the moment comes to do a renovation or to buy a new television, the new version uses less energy than the one it replaces. Through the Energy Performance Building Directive, for example, policy makers have the tools to ensure that when buildings are renovated they are renovated to a good level."

Paul Hodson, Head of the European Commission's Energy Efficiency Unit.

WHERE NEXT?

OUR TARGETS

The 'Clean Energy for Europeans' package was launched by the European Commission in the Autumn of 2016 and is an impressive set of proposals that could commit the European Union to a 30% binding efficiency target by 2030 and launch an ambitious rate of building renovation backed by significant 'smart' financial support.

OUR WORK

We have been supporting politicians and policy-makers with practical expertise and experience to ensure the Clean Energy Package delivers the best possible deal for energy efficiency in buildings. We are also working to make the package's revisions of the EPBD and EED focus on requirements that double Europe's renovation rate.

TESTIMONY

"It is great to work with Knauf Insulation. Along with other members of the European Alliance to Save Energy they have been at the forefront of our campaign for energy efficiency in Europe since the creation of the Alliance back in 2010. They are an excellent example of why green business is good for Europe, for European citizens but most importantly for the future of our planet."

Monica Frassoni, President of the European Alliance to Save Energy

2012

The first Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) sets an energy efficiency target of 20% by 2020 for all Member States — to improve energy security, reduce emissions, create jobs and boost innovation. The bad news is that it's not legally binding. The good news is that for the first time, renovation is mentioned with countries having to create tri-annual 'roadmaps' to show how they will make their building stock more energy efficient.

2014

The European Council agrees on the 2030 climate and energy policy framework for the European Union setting a target of at least 40% in greenhouse gas emission reduction for 2030 and European Commission proposals state Member States must improve their energy efficiency by 27% by the same year.

2015

The European Commission presents the Strategy Framework for the Energy Union. At its heart is the principle of 'Energy Efficiency First' ensuring energy efficiency comes before the exploration of new energy sources.

— The world commits to the Paris Climate Change Agreement to keep warming well-below 2°C.

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