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EU Adopts Strengthened Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Key policies: *Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), European Green Deal, Fit for 55 Legislative Package, REPowerEU Plan, Renovation Wave Strategy, Sustainable Mobility Framework*

On April 12, 2024, the European Commission announced the final adoption of the revised **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)**, marking a significant milestone in the EU's efforts to reduce emissions, cut energy bills, and improve the quality of life for its citizens. As a key component of the **European Green Deal**, the directive sets ambitious targets to transform the energy efficiency of Europe's building stock, which currently accounts for 40% of the EU's energy consumption and 35% of its energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Key Objectives and Measures

The revised directive establishes a robust framework for Member States to reduce energy use and emissions across residential, commercial, and public buildings. Key provisions include:

- **National Trajectories:** Member States must reduce the primary energy use of residential buildings by **16% by 2030** and **20-22% by 2035**, and renovate the **16% worst-performing non-residential buildings by 2030** and **26% by 2033**.
- **Zero-Emission Buildings:** From January 1, 2028, all new publicly owned buildings must have zero on-site fossil fuel emissions. This requirement will extend to all new buildings by January 1, 2030.
- **Phasing Out Fossil Fuels:** Subsidies for stand-alone fossil fuel boilers will be banned from January 1, 2025. Member States must also ensure that new buildings are "solar ready" and promote solar installations.
- **Sustainable Mobility:** The directive includes provisions for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, bicycle parking, and pre-cabling to support clean mobility.
- **Renovation Wave:** Financial incentives and one-stop shops for renovation advice will target the **worst-performing buildings** and **vulnerable households**, aiming to double the annual renovation rate to 2% by 2030.

Boosting Energy Independence and Economic Growth

The directive supports the **REPowerEU Plan** by reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and accelerating the deployment of renewable energy. It is also expected to:

- **Create Jobs:** Boost demand for European clean technologies and construction value chains.
- **Mobilize Investments:** Unlock additional financing opportunities for homeowners and businesses to undertake renovations.
- **Cut Costs:** Help households reduce energy bills while transitioning to sustainable energy solutions.

Background and Next Steps

With over 75% of Europe's building stock currently energy inefficient, the directive builds on the **Renovation Wave Strategy**, which aims to double renovation rates by 2030. This legislation also complements the **Fit for 55** legislative package, supporting the EU's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least **55% by 2030**.

The revised directive will soon be published in the Official Journal of the EU and will enter into force shortly thereafter. Member States must transpose it into national law and implement measures that align with their specific building stock and circumstances.

A Pathway to Climate Neutrality

The strengthened Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will play a critical role in achieving the EU's goal of **climate neutrality by 2050**. By fostering innovation, reducing emissions, and empowering citizens, it ensures a sustainable and prosperous future for Europe.

For more information, visit the [European Green Deal page](#).

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