



Zero-emission buildings: why renewable energy delivered through the grids is key

Coalition of industry groups argues that in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, the definition of zero-emission buildings must fully recognise the role of the energy grids and all renewable energy sources delivered through them.

The undersigned organisations support an ambitious and cost-efficient decarbonisation of the European building stock. We represent EU-based industries spanning across the entire energy value chain. This covers electricity and gas, renewable energy producers, Distribution System Operators, energy suppliers and manufacturers of heating appliances and energy efficiency solutions.

We need to strive for smart, efficient, integrated, and increasingly renewable-based energy systems where local circumstances and consumers' needs are fully considered. For the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, we call on decision makers to fully recognise the important role of energy infrastructure to enable a range of renewable and energy efficient solutions to decarbonise buildings. Those renewables can be produced onsite, nearby or delivered through energy grids.

*Definition of 'zero-emission buildings'
[Article 2.2, Annex III]*

We welcome that the European Parliament recognises that renewable energy delivered through the energy grids has a role to play in zero-emission buildings. We support the amended definition of Article 2.2.

However, we regret that Annex III only allows for renewable energy distributed through the grids in exceptional circumstances. Moreover, Annex III further restricts this possibility to renewable energy delivered exclusively through power purchase agreements (PPAs).

This restriction drastically limits the amount of renewable energy available to decarbonise buildings. PPAs are complex and long-term products that are not easily accessible to private consumers. It also means that only new renewable energy projects can contribute. Existing PPAs have already been contracted by other customers. It seriously jeopardises Europe's ability to meet its ambitious deadlines for zero-emission buildings.

To realise the decarbonisation of the building stock, it is essential to extend the possibility to cover renewable energy demand of zero-emission buildings to all renewable energy sources.

