

Level(s) Newsletter

22 February 2022



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Level(s) in the Spotlight

The Level(s) eLearning programme and a Calculation and Assessment Tool (CAT) are now live!

A comprehensive set of online Level(s) training materials is now available and ready to use on the EU Academy platform! Our **eLearning course** provides a detailed overview of Level(s) and prepares you to start using it in your working environment. The course will also help you to acquire the knowledge to complete a building assessment using Level(s).

The course is for...

- Built environment and sustainability professionals;
- Policy makers, procurers and public authorities; and
- Investors, property owners and landlords.

For those already using Level(s), there is also a new **Calculation and Assessment Tool (CAT)**, to make it easier to complete your sustainability performance assessments. Access the eLearning course and the CAT through the Level(s) website. [Learn how to use Level\(s\) today!](#)

Visit the Level(s) online booth at the Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference during 1–2 March

The Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference is the main gathering of the European Circular Economy community. Now in its 5th edition, the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee joined forces with the French EU Council Presidency to organise this flagship stakeholder conference on 1 and 2 March 2022. The event will feature a virtual booth where you can find out more about Level(s) and how it contributes to a more circular built environment. [Find out more and register your place.](#)

Have you joined the Level(s) LinkedIn group yet?

The group is the perfect place to share experiences of Level(s) with the sustainable building community. You'll also be among the first to learn about Level(s) tools, e-learning materials, events and publications. Since the group launched, in March 2021, it has grown to more than 1 150 members from all over Europe. [Join the LinkedIn group.](#)

Noticeboard

Join in the Festival of the New European Bauhaus in Brussels, 9–12 June 2022

The European Commission invites architects, cities, regions, companies and a wide variety of organisations and individuals to be part of the first Festival of the New European Bauhaus (Brussels. 9–12 June. It is the first edition of this festival and it will be the occasion to showcase the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB).

As a Level(s) user (or supporter) you have an important role to play in sustainability, one of the three pillars of the NEB. That is because, by applying Level(s) in the built environment we can improve sustainability at all stages of the building life cycle, from the extraction of materials through the use of buildings to their deconstruction.

The hybrid event will propose live performances, exhibitions, participatory activities and a forum to debate and exchange ideas. It will invite everybody to imagine how we can live together in a sustainable, inclusive and beautiful way.

Interested organisations and individuals can propose their own activities, projects, venues or side events at the festival. A call for applications is open until midnight on 7 March. [Find out more.](#)

Events

#BuildingLife webinar, 17 March 2022: What are the levers for a truly low-carbon renovation?

The French Green Building Council, Alliance HQE, and the World Green Building Council are hosting the first #BuildingLife webinar of 2022 to explore a new methodology for applying life cycle assessments (LCA) to the decarbonisation of existing buildings, drawing on the approach developed and findings of the Net Zero Carbon Renovation project. The project contributes to the Renovation Wave ambition to address whole life carbon, which encompasses the emissions from energy in use as well as from the material production, construction and demolition of buildings. The panel will discuss the theory, policy, challenges and opportunities behind reducing the whole-life carbon of renovation. [Find out more and register.](#)



Organiser

French Green Building Council, Alliance HQE, World Green Building Council

Kick-off Webinar: the EU roadmap for the reduction of whole life carbon, 8 March 2022

Recently, the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENV) commissioned a study aimed at developing an EU-wide whole life carbon roadmap, outlining how all building-related emissions can be mitigated by 2050. The study is conducted by a consortium led by [Ramboll](#) in collaboration with [KU Leuven](#) and [Buildings Performance Institute Europe \(BPIE\)](#).

The purpose of the study is to support the development of an EU roadmap for the reduction of whole life carbon, for embodied and operational carbon separately and combined. It will establish a baseline for embodied carbon emissions of buildings across European regions, set out how the levels of embodied carbon for a representative selection of building types and typologies can be expected to evolve by 2050, set out the trajectory towards climate objectives for operational carbon in various scenarios, and identify and assess the impact of whole life carbon emissions reduction solutions.

The study will rely on the collaboration with stakeholders within the building and construction ecosystem and it includes a broad stakeholder engagement programme that foresees the consultation of relevant actors at different stages of the project.

If you would like to learn more about the study, join the Kick-off Webinar on the 8th of March 2022, from 15:00 to 16:15 CET.

[Find out more and register.](#)



Organiser

Ramboll, KU Leuven, Buildings Performance Institute Europe

The Lindblom Interview

Interview with Stefan Moser, Head of Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)



Please could you tell us about yourself and describe your role in the area of sustainable buildings?

I am head of unit on the energy performance of buildings and products at DG Energy. I joined the Commission in 2000. I have held several positions related to energy, environmental and climate issues. These subjects are particularly close to my heart.

EU Member States have agreed to reach climate neutrality by 2050 and increase their level of ambition by reducing emissions by at least 55 % by 2030. As you may know, buildings account for around 40 % of energy consumption in the EU and 36 % of greenhouse gas emissions due to energy consumption. So, buildings are a main part of the equation to deliver the European Green Deal. By 2030, 35 million buildings are to be renovated and several hundred thousand additional jobs created in the construction sector.

Buildings are at the core of my unit's mission and we are working on several important initiatives under the Green Deal.

It's been a pleasure working with you over the last year to support your work in DG Energy. You and your colleagues were in charge of the development of the Commission's proposal to revise the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Can you sum up the significance of the revised legislation in terms of the EU's energy policy goals?

We have entered a new phase in the policymaking process, with a package of proposals published in July and December 2021 to implement the increased ambition for 2030. The recast of the EPBD, adopted on 15 December, is an essential element to deliver this Fit for 55 package.

The revised directive sets out how Europe can achieve a zero-emission and fully decarbonised building stock by 2050. The proposed measures will increase the rate of renovation of the worst-performing buildings, modernise the EU's building stock and enhance its role in energy system integration. They will facilitate more targeted financing to investments in the building sector, particularly addressing vulnerable consumers and energy poverty.

The proposal, if adopted, would require the life cycle Global Warming Potential (GWP) of new buildings to be calculated as of 2030 (or as of 2027 for large buildings). Why is this change needed in your view and how does Level(s) support this addition to the Directive?

The objective of this proposal is twofold, in line with the EU's time horizons. It will contribute to reducing buildings' GHG emissions and final energy consumption by 2030. It also provides a long-term vision for buildings and ensures an adequate contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

This is why this proposal is not only about looking into improving energy performance and reducing carbon emissions. It is also the start of a forward-looking approach to address resource efficiency, circularity and sustainability. This is fully in line with the goals of the Renovation Wave initiative.

The EPBD will address carbon emissions over the full lifecycle of a building, through mandatory calculation and disclosure of this information for new construction, to inform citizens and business and raise awareness. This approach builds upon experiences from several Member States and of course on Level(s). The Global Warming Potential (or GWP), which shall be used to measure the impact of all greenhouse gases emissions, is one of the impact categories measured in the Level(s) framework.

This requirement will be gradually introduced (starting with large buildings of over 2 000 square meters) to allow enough time for data to be available.

More generally, could you describe how Level(s), as a common language framework for assessing the sustainability performance of buildings, complements the work you are doing in DG Energy?

The EPBD will address carbon emissions over the full life cycle of a building and this requirement constitutes a first step towards increased consideration of whole life cycle performance of buildings and a circular economy in energy policies.

It is estimated that embodied carbon today typically contributes 10–20 % of EU buildings' CO₂ footprint, depending on factors. However, the relative

importance of embodied emissions will increase as more buildings are constructed and renovated to higher energy efficiency standards, which will greatly reduce operational emissions.

To achieve the objective to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, we must move ahead on all fronts to make our buildings more energy-efficient, less carbon-intensive over their full life cycle and more sustainable. Applying circularity principles to building renovation will reduce materials-related greenhouse gas emissions for buildings.

Are there any future developments relating to sustainable buildings that you'd like to share with readers?

The EPBD proposal was adopted on 15 December 2021 and I look forward to continuing, in the near future, to work with DG Environment and the Level(s) community to ensure that the EPBD delivers the right level of ambition for the benefit of our citizens and our planet.

What's your level?

Quiz

Test your knowledge on the new Level(s) eLearning course. Tip! You'll find it helpful to read the first news item in this bulletin first.

[Take the quiz!](#)

About this newsletter

This newsletter is issued at least four times a year as part of the Level(s) initiative, and managed by Ecorys Europe on behalf of DG ENV.

Visit the [Level\(s\) page](#)

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