



Robust Building Data: A Driver For Policy Development

The GBPN

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For the first time, the GBPN has made a comparison of the quality of data used for detailed analysis of the building sectors in China, the EU, India and the US. The GBPN set out to check the quality of data within these regions and to what extent that data is valid for use on a global scale.

The four regions are at different stages of development, have diverse cultures and have varied resources devoted to data collection and to making publicly available data on their buildings sectors. The divergences affect international comparability, but it has not been clear to what extent validity of comparisons is damaged by data quality or how data can be improved.

The GBPN report finds that there are significant differences in data quality as well as large data gaps within most of the regions. These errors and omissions make it exceedingly difficult to analyse the state of the building sector in each region. There are comparability problems within regions as well as between regions.

A panel of buildings analysts and data experts from all four regions assessed the quality of data using a scoring system based on several parameters. The experts were further asked to provide guidance on how the data quality and the collection techniques could be improved.

Once the data quality is known, analysts can find solutions to making improvements or adjusting for comparison. But the report underlines the need for a systematic and collaborative effort to build a sustainable data collection system beyond the more immediate fixes. Ultimately, there is no substitute for robust, comprehensive and credible data.

The report says that collection techniques should be improved in order to share and improve access to secure building energy data that is required by international modellers to ensure accuracy of calculation, and by policy makers in the design and implementation of consistent working policies and incentive schemes. This is a key element to drive essential change in the building sector.

The report provides a series of recommendations, based on the experts' advice. The GBPN will be developing a work plan to help guide the work in the future. This report provides considerable evidence on the gaps and the steps should be taken to support long-term buildings energy performance strategies that need high quality data for analysis as well as for monitoring progress.