

FRANCE

REDUCING ENERGY DEMAND IN EXISTING BUILDINGS: LEARNING FROM BEST PRACTICE RENOVATION POLICIES

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FRANCE: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RENOVATION STRATEGY

In 2007, the “Grenelle de l’environnement” round table brought together representatives of both national and regional governments and organisations with the objective of establishing an agreement on key issues surrounding the environment and sustainable development. From this, ambitious targets were set for reducing France’s carbon emissions by 75% by 2050, compared to 1990. The Grenelle de l’environnement also established specific building sector targets taking into account a reduction of energy consumption in the building sector by 2050 (of 38%) and a target number of buildings to be renovated per year as of 2013. Alongside the Grenelle de l’environnement, a number of other policy measures exist that aim to reduce the consumption of energy of the existing building stock that include tax reductions, tax credits and zero interest loans. France introduced their version of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) called ‘Diagnostic de Performance Energétique’ (DPE) in 2006.

The Policy Tool for Renovation highlights five key areas where France’s Renovation Policy Package excels: overall country reduction targets, labelling schemes, incentive schemes (including tax rebates), and training and education campaigns.

All residential consumption indicators in France have been reducing steadily for the past few decades as well as the consumption per GDP, making it a prime candidate for the comparison study. It is one of the largest countries in Europe and home to different climatic zones. Population is 65.3 million (Eurostat, 2012).

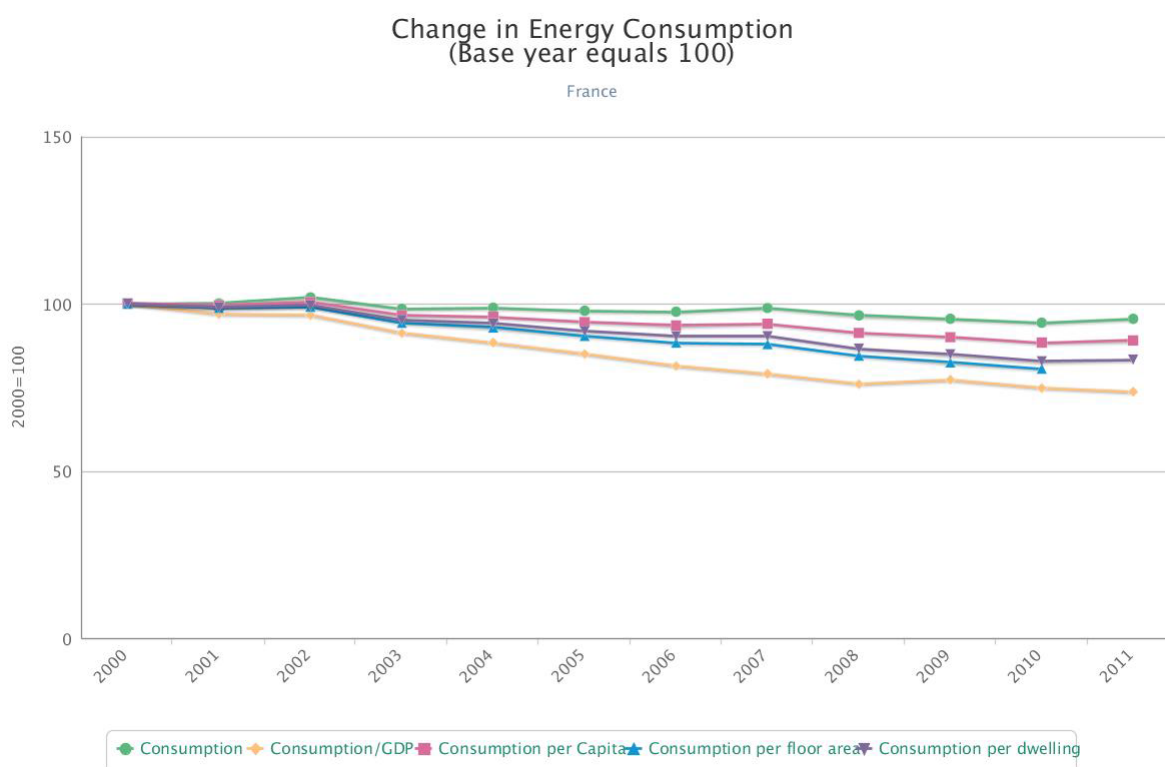


Figure 3.2. Objective Criteria in France, all consumption units are normalised in relation to 2000, GDP is normalised to year 2010.

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About GBPN The Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) is a globally organised and regionally focused network whose mission is to advance best practice policies that can significantly reduce energy consumption and associated CO₂ emissions from buildings.