

## **GERMANY**

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

July 2014



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## GERMANY: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RENOVATION STRATEGY

Germany has a direct target for its building stock aiming to use close to zero energy by 2050. This is to be achieved by both new and existing buildings to greatly increase their energy efficiency while using renewable energy sources to cover the remaining energy demand. Germany's "Energy Concept" of 2010 requires that the primary energy demand of buildings be reduced by 80% in 2050, with an intermediate milestone of a reduction in heat demand of 20% by 2020. The targets are to be achieved based on three pillars: legislation (codes and labelling schemes), financial support and provision of information and advice on energy efficiency measures. The current energy efficiency efforts are well packaged. The state bank, KfW, and the German Energy Agency (Dena) are the federal government's official agencies designated to support energy efficiency in Germany; Dena provides citizens with information and advice and acts as a "centre of expertise", as a one-stop shop, while the KfW provides financial incentives and loans to promote energy efficiency.

The Policy Tool for Renovation highlights eight key areas where Germany's Renovation Policy Package excels: overall country reduction targets, building reduction targets, building code requirements for renovations, labelling schemes, taxation mechanisms, utility-funded energy efficiency programmes, training and education campaigns and a one-stop solution centre.

The residential consumption in Germany has been reducing for the past decade as well as the consumption per GDP, making it a prime candidate for the comparison study. It is also one of the largest countries in Europe. The trends in consumption and the GDP show that Germany went through a few turbulent years around the 2008 financial crisis yet both trends were back to normal by 2010. Population is 81.8 million (Eurostat, 2012).

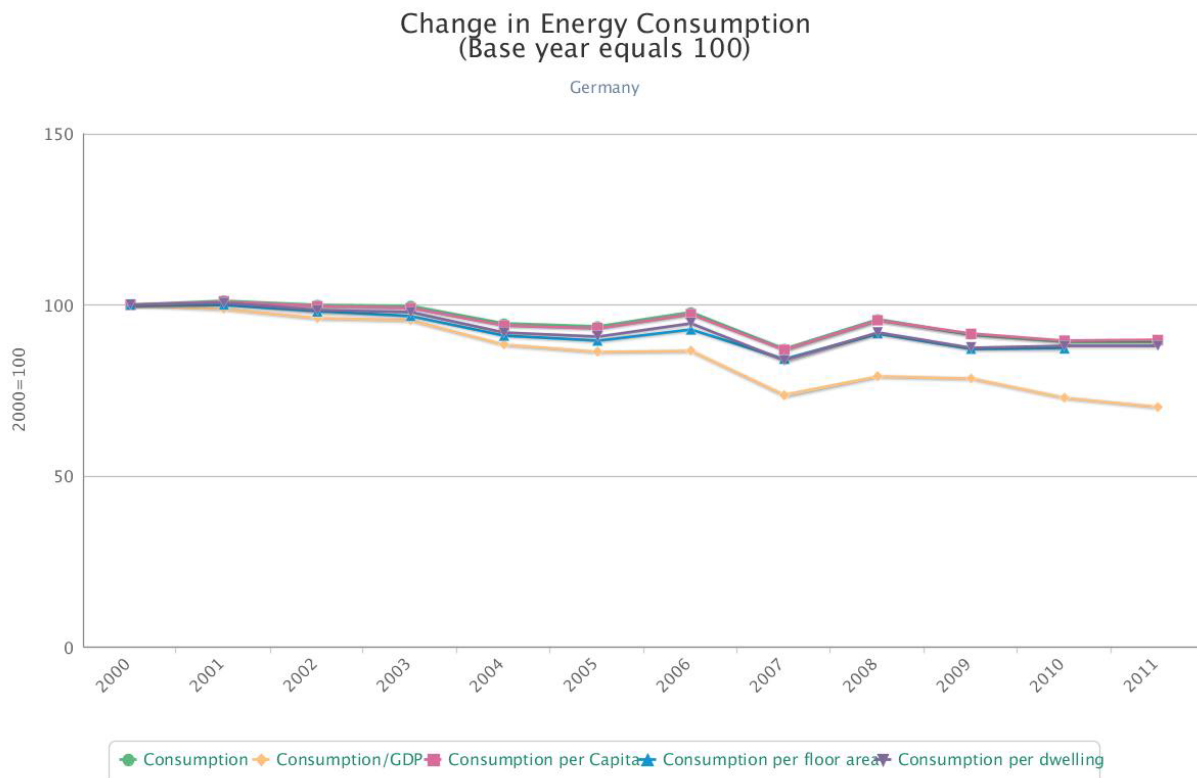


Figure 3.3 Objective Criteria in Germany, all consumption units are normalised in relation to 2000, GDP is normalised to year 2010.

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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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from buildings.