

UNITED KINGDOM

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

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Authors

Sophie Shnapp (GBPN)

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UNITED KINGDOM: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RENOVATION STRATEGY

In 2013, the United Kingdom introduced the "Green Deal", a loan system designed to encourage and assist citizens to undertake energy renovations using a package of measures, rather than merely targeting individual measures. The aim of this is to realise larger energy and carbon savings per property. These loans are attached to the electricity meter of the building, not the resident, and thus encourage higher investment by allowing a longer payback period, which is not constrained by a possible future sale of the property. The Green Deal policy is still at a very early stage of adoption and has not yet reached significant market uptake. The government has not set national targets for the renovation of the building stock but estimates have been made for the quantity of specific measures that will be undertaken by the Green Deal. The United Kingdom has set obligations for energy companies, under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), that realise a significant amount of energy savings in the residential sector each year. This obligation began under a different name in the 1990s. Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) were introduced in the United Kingdom in 2007.

The Policy Tool for Renovation highlights five key areas where the United Kingdom's Renovation Policy Package excels: overall country reduction targets, building code requirements for renovations, labelling schemes, incentive schemes (including tax rebates) and the Green Deal's one stop solution centre.

Over the past 10 years the UK has managed to decrease its total residential consumption, consumption/capita, and consumption/m². These reductions began in 2004, four years before the financial crisis and therefore these two cannot be linked. Although there was an increase in overall energy consumption in 2010, it then decreases in 2011 to continue with the downward trend. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) explains this unusually high level of consumption in 2010 as being driven by an exceptionally cold winter (DECC, 2012). Population is 63.2 million (Eurostat, 2012).

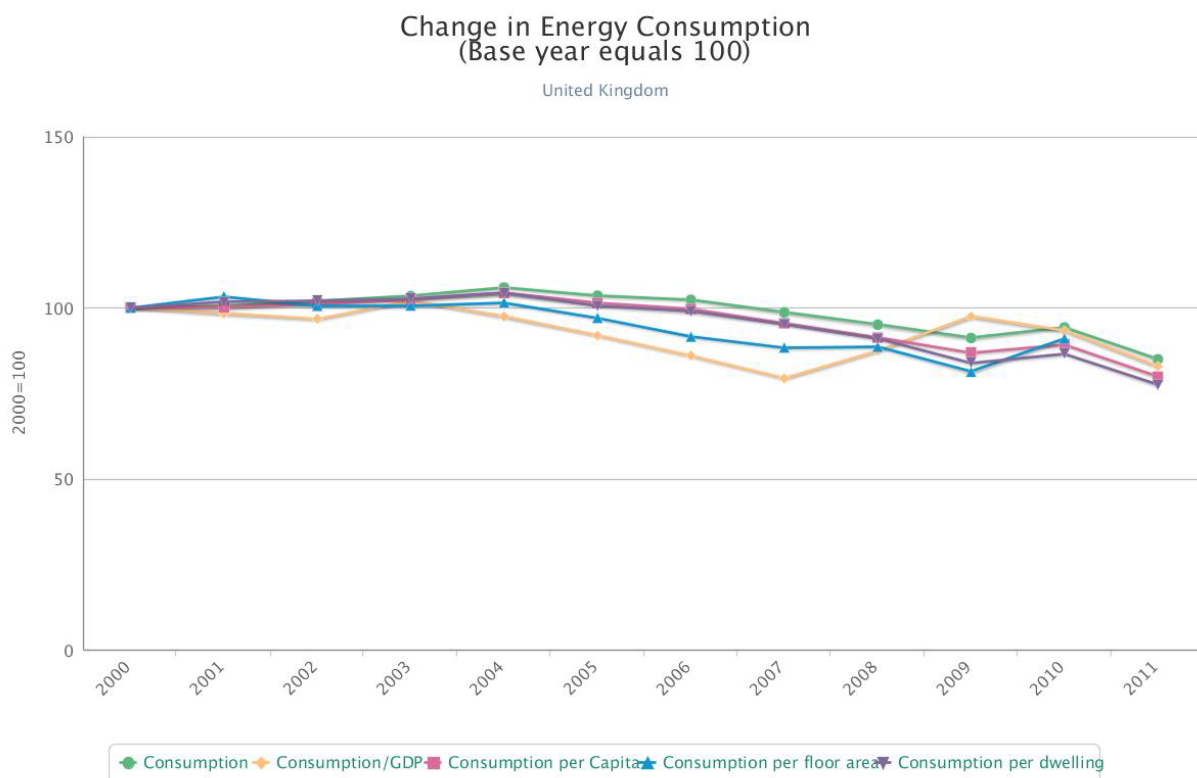


Figure 3.6. Objective Criteria in UK, all consumption units are normalised in relation to 2000, GDP is normalised to year 2010.

GBPN Global Buildings Performance Network

51 Rue Sainte-Anne
75002 Paris
France

+33 (0)1 70 98 31 30
info@gbpn.org



www.gbpn.org
[@GBPNetwork](https://twitter.com/GBPNetwork)

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.