

## REPORT

### EE Global – GBPN Intensive Learning Session – 21st of May

THE STATUS OF GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY-BEST PRACTICES FOR NEW AND EXISTING BUILDINGS –  
WHAT'S WORKING AND WHAT CAN BE IMPROVED TO ACHIEVE DEEP ENERGY AND GHG EMISSIONS SAVINGS?



## AGENDA

### **Opening & Moderation**

Jayson Antonoff, GBPN Regional Director U.S at the Institute for Market Transformation

### **Setting the Scene: Buildings Emissions Reductions – What is the Potential?**

Jens Laustsen, GBPN Senior Policy Expert & Advisor

### **State of the Art Criteria: What is the Way Forward?**

Policy Tool for New Buildings - Niamh McDonald, GBPN Policy Analyst

Policy Tool for Existing Buildings – Sophie Shnapp, GBPN Policy Analyst

### **Best Practice Case Studies: What Can they Teach Us?**

California – David Goldstein, Energy Program Co-Director, Natural Resources Defense Council

New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont - Susan Coakley, North East Energy Efficiency Partnership

Denmark – Jens Laustsen, GBPN Senior Policy Expert & Advisor

### **Questions and Answers**

### **Bridging the Gap – How Do We Up-Scale Best Practices?**

Meredydd Evans – Integrated Modelling and Energy Scientist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Jeff Harris – Senior Policy Advisor, Alliance to Save Energy

### **Panel Discussion and Audience Engagement**

### **Conclusions- Learning Points & Wrap Up**

## **KEY OUTPUTS**

A significant energy savings potential exists in the building sector and this can be realised if ambitious policy measures are adopted to support a transformation of the market.

As part of the ILS, participants discussed current best practices in the field of energy efficiency policies, and the progress that needs to be made in order to achieve deep energy savings. The session opened with a presentation of the GBPN Policy Comparative Tools for New and Existing Buildings, highlighting the key elements of state-of-the-art of policy packages for both vintages. The elements represent a number of criteria that form the basis of the tools. The tools analyse a number of current “best practice” building energy codes and supporting policies in light of these elements, revealing that significant progress still needs to be made in order for those codes to reach state of the art. This is particularly the case with renovation policies. However, the tools illustrate the importance of best practice sharing and the fact that countries and jurisdictions can learn from each other.

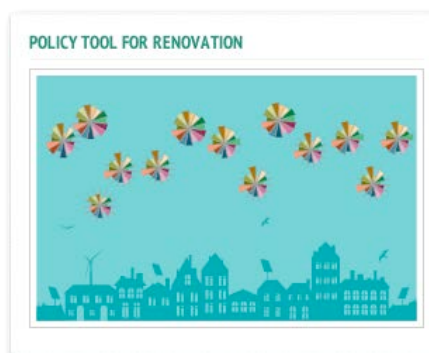
Some of the best practice regions analysed in the tool included Denmark, California, New York, Vermont and Massachusetts. David Goldstein from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sue Coakley from North East Energy Efficiency Partnership, and Jens Laustsen from the GBPN provided insights into the best practices of those regions during the session.

The consistent message that emerged from those presentations was:

- the importance of long-term targets and the need for a consistent policy framework that supports the building community in moving towards the standards set.
- Another key point was the need to insulate the policy making process from the political world so that progress can be made. It is critical to give long term signals to the market.

Meredydd Evans from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Jeff Harris from the Alliance to Save Energy shared some key ideas for scaling up energy efficiency and for closing the gap between today’s best practice and the state of the art policies and supporting measures that are necessary to reach the deep scenario. Emphasis was placed on the importance of straightforward policy measures that can be understood by those who need to implement them such as designers and builders. It was argued that once people understand the regulations and are involved in the process, they can provide feedback that supports the development of more progressive future policies.

Simplicity is also critical in measuring progress and ensuring compliance with the measures introduced. Another critical point raised was that most energy efficiency opportunities do not come about for the sake of energy efficiency. Buildings are in general made to provide shelter rather than to be energy efficient, so the energy efficiency lobby must piggy back on every opportunity to upscale efficiency whether its on the back of upgrading a building, improving the economy or creating employment.



The **main recommendations** for closing the gap between state of the art and today's best practices included:

- Improving the quality and availability of measured data – By properly understanding and interpreting data we can improve the entire process of upgrading buildings by adopting a much more targeted approach.
- Foster a culture of energy efficiency by building on existing knowledge to improve literacy of the population about energy efficiency and its importance. If we want to be at a different place in 20 years we need start with the people who will be the consumers of the future.
- Acknowledge that there are great things that are happening and debunk any myths that we need to wait for technology to come on stream before we can take action. Enough technology is currently in place for us to strive forward and take action in the building sector. Policies need to follow suite and push our industries to renovate deeply and build energy neutral buildings.
- Existing buildings follow new buildings – we need to get it right in new buildings.
- Building codes have be both performance-based and prescriptive requirements in order for us to realise the full benefits of an energy efficient building.
- Irrespective or the finer details of net zero energy targets, if we are to come close to meeting those targets we need to begin to take action now in order to move in the right direction. The finer details can be ironed out as we move closer to the targets.
- Financing energy efficiency needs to be seen as a return on investment and has a large part to play in terms of our economic growth.

