

Decret d'Ecoeficiencia (Catalunya, Spain)

Summary

The Decree aims at regulating the criteria for the sustainability of buildings in Catalonia, promote social consciousness in the way to conceive, design, build and use buildings in a sustainable way. Four action fields have been established within the decree: water, energy (including solar thermal), materials, construction methods and waste.



Ordinance Facts

Ordinance title	Decret d'Ecoeficiencia
Type of ordinance	Solar thermal ordinance
Starting date	Adopted in February 2006 and entered into force in August 2006.
Duration	Unlimited.
Geographical area	Region of Catalonia.
No. of inhabitants	about 7 millions; 32,000 km ²
Scope	New and existing buildings subject to major renovations (only building facades are left); old buildings which use will be changed. Building types: residential, collective residential (hotels, guesthouses, retirement residences, hostels), educational, health-care and sport centers.
Technology priorities	Solar thermal.
Size of the solar heating system required	The hot water demand is based on fixed figures, according to the building use and to inhabitants.
Alternative measures	It is allowed to apply other technologies (RES, cogeneration and heat recovery).
Executing authority	The Catalan Government.
Execution mechanism	There were external (national and international) forces (Ley de Ordenación de la Edificación and the Kyoto Protocol) and internal forces (by the end of 2006, 55 solar ordinances had entered into force in Catalonia as local initiatives) that encourage the Catalan Government implementing the Decree.

Development and Implementation

Background	The building stock in Catalonia is responsible of 40% of CO ₂ emissions. Additionally, there is a trend to increase the primary energy consumption from non renewable sources in a great number of buildings. Increase of water consumption due to the low resource price. Resistance to apply strategies for a rational waste management in the construction sector.
Objectives	Technical and innovation development, decrease of expenses on fossil fuels, avoidance of CO ₂ emissions, jobs creation and improvement on living quality.
Process	It is a regional initiative, born as a consequence of following international and national initiatives: - The framework of the Kyoto Protocol

- The National law 38/1999, November 5th, the Town Planning and development Act (Ley de Ordenación de la Edificación), related to building requirements that ensure environment protection

Timing	Six months were needed for the Decree to come into force.
Quality schemes product	yes
Quality schemes installation	no
Quality schemes other	yes
Flanking measures	Awareness campaign on boiler renovations. The Economy & Finance Department issues certified licenses to installers. Training courses on energy audits and energy management.
Supervision	Not clear yet. Probably quite similar to the procedures used in Barcelona Ordinance, since checks are carried out at municipal level.
Sanctioning fees	Probably similar to the Barcelona Ordinance.
Costs for implementing	No cost borne by the administration side because the solar ordinance is embedded in the Decret d'Ecoeficiencia.

Monitoring and Results

Monitoring	ICAEN is monitoring the Collector surface installed. Results are not yet available.
Quantitative results	According to the Catalonian Energy Plan, it is expected to install 1,250,000 m ² of solar thermal by 2015. Results at local level: 120,000 m ² by 2006.
Costs borne by the enduser	0,32-0,41% increase per m ² built.
Effects on other sectors	Not defined.
Communication	Not defined.
Future outlook	Not defined.

Lessons Learned

Barriers faced and overcome	Not available yet. More time is required to test the Decree.
Success factors	Not available yet. More time is required to test the Decree.
Potential for improvement	Some measures are: simplify the legislative framework, better controlling and monitoring measures, capacity building of professionals, awareness raising.
Recommendations	Not available yet. More time is required to test the Decree.

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