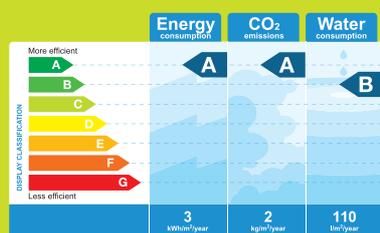




Towards a voluntary common European Union certification scheme for non-residential buildings

A decade of experience within the Display® Campaign



**Get Power
Save Energy!**





The Display® Campaign is driven by hundreds of committed participants. It is co-financed by the European Commission under the IEE programme (project number EIE 07-769-S12.499211).

Written by:

**Ian Turner,
Laura Guérin
Peter Schilken
Energy Cities
E-mail: www.energy-cities.eu/peter
Tel: +33 (0)3 81 65 36 80**

With the contribution of:

Display Campaign participants



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE: 7 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 7 CAMPAIGN YEARS 5

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE: 10 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 10 DISPLAY CITIES 7

CONCLUSIONS 12

ANNEX I – THE DISPLAY CAMPAIGN – A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE 14

ANNEX II – MORE ABOUT THE EPBD PROCESS 16

INTRODUCTION

Nearly 40 %¹ of the final energy consumption is in buildings (residential houses, public and private offices, commercial buildings, etc), no wonder that the biggest potential to save energy in Europe is in this sector. By really DISPLAYing the performance of buildings (i.e. being transparent and carrying out communication campaigns) one can engage citizens and make them more conscious of their energy consumption.

PUBLIC SECTOR: LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Publicly owned or occupied buildings represent about 12 % by area of the EU building stock². This is one of the reasons why not only the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)** but also the recently published EU Energy Efficiency Plan (EU EEP) is requesting local authorities to play the leading role in the implementation of the EU energy and climate policy. Cities and Towns participating in the Display® Campaign have taken the lead in the implementation of the EPBD and thus being always ahead of their times. They strongly support Article 11 of DIRECTIVE 2010/31/EU (EPBD recast) which states that “The Commission shall, by 2011, in consultation with the relevant sectors, adopt a voluntary common European Union certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings”. As Member States are encouraged to recognise or use the scheme, or use part thereof by adapting it to national circumstances this briefing note is aimed at sharing the decade of experience gained by Display Campaign participants. Today, our focus is limited to this aspect of the EPBD but in the near future Display participants might pronounce themselves on other issues of the EPBD (concerning the construction and renovation towards nearly zero emission buildings) or the EU-EEP (as an annual refurbishment rate of 3 % of their building stock).

Why is it important that Building Energy Certificates are DISPLAYed in Public buildings?

In the past years, energy labels for household appliances have strongly influenced the public’s purchasing decisions and transformed the market for more energy efficient products. But hang on buildings are a completely different story!

A fridge can be sold anywhere in Europe so that market pressure and competition will be pushing towards better energy performance. When it comes to public buildings though, they are rarely sold or rented, and therefore not subject to normal market forces. That is why article 7 of the EPBD specifies that building certificates be “placed in a prominent place clearly visible to the public”. Energy certificates need to be public and involve the public i.e. take into account the public’s part in increasing or decreasing consumption in public buildings. This will allow for them to be informed and create a “market force” to stimulate improvements to be made or to be a part of the solution.

The core message is that Building Energy Certificates in existing public buildings need to be visible and the actual public display of an energy performance certificate such as the Display® poster acts as a stimulus for behaviour change. The poster is not an end in itself, merely a means to an end. The importance and success of the Display® Campaign is in recognising that the poster is just the beginning of the journey ‘Towards Class A’. For the past decade almost 500 local or regional authorities in Europe have been involved in the development of Display®, a voluntary scheme initiated by Energy Cities in 2001.

¹ In 2008. See Eurostat, Energy, transport and environment indicators, 2010 edition.

² Ecorys, Ecofys and BioIntelligence (2010) : Study to support the impact assessment for the EU Energy Saving Action Plan

What drives the improvements in building performance?

Is it technical changes or the behaviour change of building users driven by displaying an energy performance certificate such as Display? Or is it both? One of the key findings by De Montfort University (DMU) (2011) is the unhelpful distinction made between 'technical improvements' and 'behaviour change'. A technical improvement is the result of someone's behaviour being changed, be it the facilities manager, finance director or energy manager.

This briefing note will thus focus on some of the technical aspects (and indeed, changes in behaviour) that were considered when producing Display by proposing the following **7 recommendations of what should be on the European voluntary Energy certificate:**

- 1. Use an A to G operational rating for different building types**
- 2. Calculate primary energy consumption in kWh/m²/year**
- 3. Calculate GHG emissions using CO₂ equivalents in kg/m²/year**
- 4. Include water consumption in l/m²/year**
- 5. Compare data (3 years) visible on certificate**
- 6. Indicate the distribution of energy sources in %**
- 7. Include simple actions and technical solutions to progress towards class A**

Thanks to the inspiration of previous Towards Class A Award winners, another **10 communication related recommendations** are then proposed:

- 1. Building Energy Certificates must be eye-catching**
- 2. Size matters! Show it off**
- 3. Monitor in order to improve**
- 4. Show improvements**
- 5. Provide easy access to a user-friendly software**
- 6. Promote a corporate identity for the communication campaign**
- 7. Continually inform buildings users and the general public**
- 8. Attract public media coverage and disseminate**
- 9. Club together (work in partnership)**
- 10. Lead by example and prepare competitions**

For a better understanding of the context two appendices have been added:

Annex 1 – Short review of a decade of the Display® Campaign

Annex 2 – Evolution of the EPBD related to issues of local authorities.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE: 7 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 7 CAMPAIGN YEARS

The Display® poster was developed via a creative and participative process involving communication experts and local energy managers. However, behind this communicative image are a number of important technical decisions. The most important being that Display posters can be produced for all building sizes. Below are 7 technical recommendations inspired by the Display poster design indicating that communication and technical aspects are closely linked!

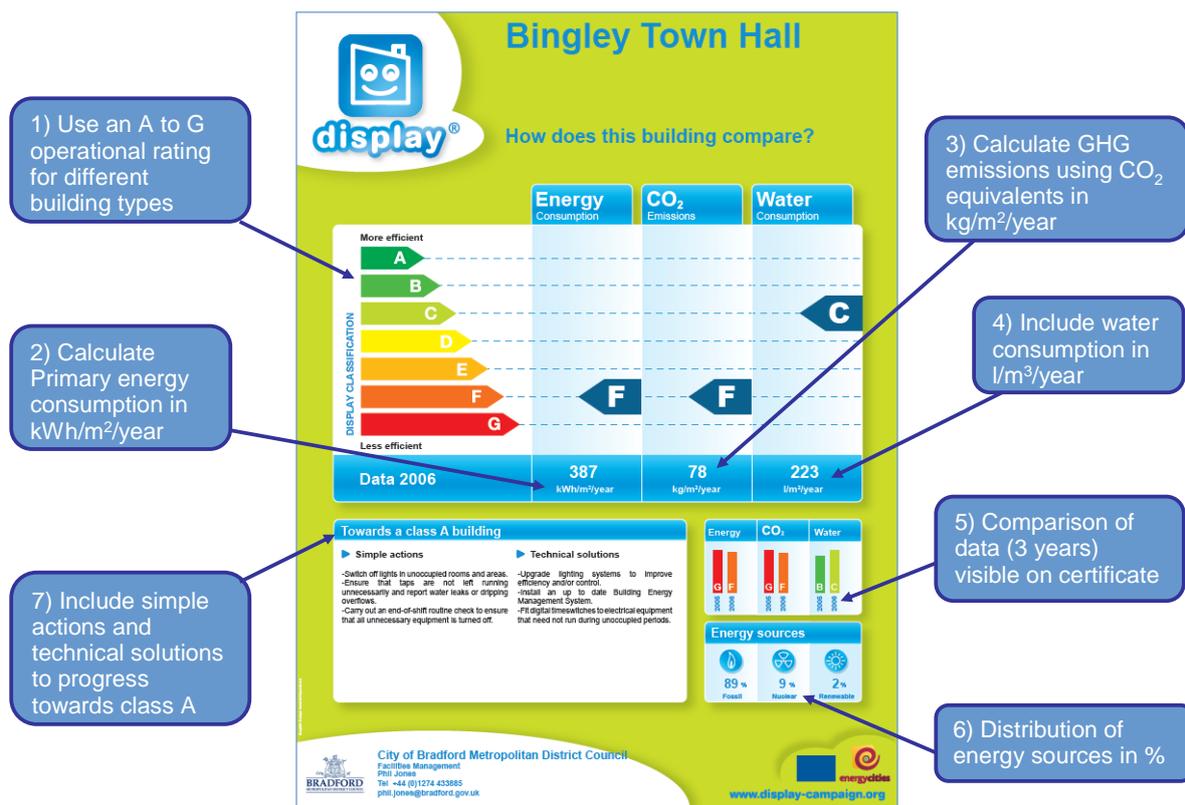


Figure 1 – 7 recommendations inspired by the Display® poster

1. USE AN A TO G OPERATIONAL RATING FOR DIFFERENT BUILDING TYPES

Contrary to the legal requirements concerning household appliances, Member States have been free to define the form and use of their national building's certificates. As a result, absolutely no two national systems are the same or use the same method to calculate the performances. Display posters use A-G Classification because the public are already familiar with the EU Energy Label for white goods. Display also proposes that European benchmarks are set for a range of appropriate building types and that only a local weather correction factor is used so that performances can be compared annually. The use of operational data appears particularly appropriate for public buildings as there are less market influences and more management-related and behavioural consequences that will improve building performances.

2. CALCULATE PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN KWH/M²/YEAR

Display users highly recommend using primary energy consumption. It represents real consumption embodying energy consumed upstream thus giving a better view of the global impact of the energy consumption (and the related CO₂ emissions). It therefore can influence building managers to choose cleaner, decentralised and more efficient energy sources to improve their overall building performance.

3. CALCULATE GHG EMISSIONS USING CO₂ EQUIVALENTS IN KG/M²/YEAR

GHG emissions normally confirm the trends of increasing or decreasing energy consumption. Carbon equivalents are important to indicate national or regional policy choices that support the use of low carbon energy sources such as Green electricity and Bio fuels.

4. INCLUDE WATER CONSUMPTION IN L/M²/YEAR

Most national energy certificates will produce results for energy and carbon. However, Display® goes one step further. During the pilot cities phase of Display®, the energy managers all agreed that water performance needed to be included in the voluntary label and thus water benchmarks were calculated for all of the building types included in Display®. Many energy managers continue to thank us for this inclusion as water was often seen as a 'side' responsibility and now with Display® they feel they are starting to manage this precious resource.

5. COMPARE DATA (3 YEARS) VISIBLE ON CERTIFICATE

Initially the Display poster, that is updated every year, did not have any section on the poster itself to compare annual data. Users were encouraged to Display the previous year's poster side-by-side with this year's result. Due to the participation of different members, in particularly the UK and Swiss participants the poster was adapted to include this vital communication aspect. It is very important that data is updated annually and, when technology permits, use 'real time' Displays to keep users informed. Creating energy certificates every 10 years for public buildings (as used in some members states) was never envisaged for Display!

6. INDICATE THE DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY SOURCES IN %

The certificate should also specify the contribution of each primary fuel source (fossil, nuclear, and renewable energy) to meet the building's final demand for electricity, heating, cooling and hot water. This feature addresses a key element of the Directive 2003/54/EC and of the Council of 26 June 2003 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity (and repealing Directive 96/92/EC), which requires electricity supply companies to specify the fuel mix and related environmental impacts of the electricity they sell.

7. INCLUDE SIMPLE ACTIONS AND TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROGRESS TOWARDS CLASS A

Certificates should include recommendations on how to improve the energy and water performance of the building. These recommendations should include simple actions that building users can take to save energy and water as well as technical solutions highlighting where money needs to be spent to improve the performance of the building. For many National Energy Certificates this information is not on the first page of the certificate which we feel takes away the potential involvement and responsibility of building users.

The "Toward Class A" building section of the Poster provides a platform upon which a public declaration of the municipality's commitment can be made: for example, how it intends to improve the energy performance of the building in the next three years.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE:

10 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 10 DISPLAY CITIES

Key policy decision makers might encounter the following issues previously identified by Display participants that attempt to improve energy efficiency in buildings:

- Unwillingness and budget constraints preventing local authorities from spending money on building certification
- Political uneasiness – “My buildings are poorly classed – the public will not vote for me if I show them these poor results”
- Confusion regarding Display®/Member State legislation implementation
- Unwillingness or inability of energy specialists to communicate with the rest of the community
- Inability to convince politicians to invest sufficient funds to focus on communication

Participants developed several solutions to overcome these issues. Since 2006, the Towards Class “A” Award has shown that linking building certification to high-quality and original communication campaigns demonstrates that local governments can lead by example to making Europe more energy efficient.

The following recommendations to best implement communication activities, aimed to raise awareness on energy certificates and using a common voluntary European label, are lessons learnt from their successful experiences.



Figure 2 – Towards Class “A” winners: a European-wide success of communication campaigns on building energy performance

1. BUILDING ENERGY CERTIFICATES MUST BE EYE-CATCHING

Energy certificates need to be used not only as a legal requirement but also as a means of communicating with the public and politicians. Their display is the first step in the communication campaign. If certificates are designed to be eye-catching, engaging and easy to understand, they can be used as a communication tool for a wide variety of audiences, from school children to politicians. On the contrary, technical certificates will limit their usefulness as a communication tool for the general public.

The bright green background as well as the “common branding” of the Display logo is aimed to catch the eyes. In order to involve the general public, **Helsinki (FI)** displayed energy certificates on 170 municipal buildings, including all the schools. The city strategically disseminate Display posters at the right time and place with well-organised support and a target audience. Display has also been an important tool in communicating the results of energy audits to the users and the maintenance personnel. Their energy audit programme is the largest in Finland!

2. SIZE MATTERS! SHOW IT OFF

The impact of the message to be delivered depends to a large extent on how visible the energy certificate is. This is the reason why several Displayer cities chose to display big, with large posters (up to 4x3m) hung on their public buildings.

In order to demonstrate their concern about energy efficiency, the City of **Ivanić-Grad (HR)** chose to show the building rating while works were being carried out thanks to the display of a big poster. The largest poster to date was displayed on the city hall when it was undergoing renovation.

3. MONITOR IN ORDER TO IMPROVE

The regular monitoring of buildings is necessary as it enables the manager to identify what periods require higher effort. Hourly, daily and monthly data complement the annual data used to produce a Display poster.

Lviv (UA) incorporated accurate data from annually updated posters, monthly monitoring of energy consumption and daily monitoring of indoor thermal comfort. The users and caretakers were stimulated to compare and discuss results and to propose solutions. As a result, every building had an action plan for low and no cost improvements in energy and water usage. These results were warmly welcomed by the Mayor and the local media as a contribution to the municipal strategy to reduce non-productive expenditures, create new jobs and attract building energy efficiency investments. Between the years of 2006 and 2009, the average results of the 345 buildings monitored was observed to decrease their energy consumption by 23% resulting in a total reduction of 11,700 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents.

4. SHOW IMPROVEMENTS

An energy certificate contains a rating that might not always be significant to the general public. What does “C” mean? Is it high/low? In order to show what progress has been done since the previous evaluation of the building energy performance, energy managers of Display cities envisaged a poster where two ratings could be represented on one poster – the current one and a previous one – together with text explanations of the actions that led to these results. Initially they placed before and after renovation posters next to each other until

in 2010 the all in one poster was created. The communication role of such a poster is considerable; on the one hand, it enables the public to understand the evolution of the building’s energy performance thanks to a comparison between two years; on the other hand, it gives the opportunity to the local authority to highlight the measures implemented during a certain period.

Lausanne (CH) was the first administration to promote before and after renovation Display posters in multi-residential buildings.

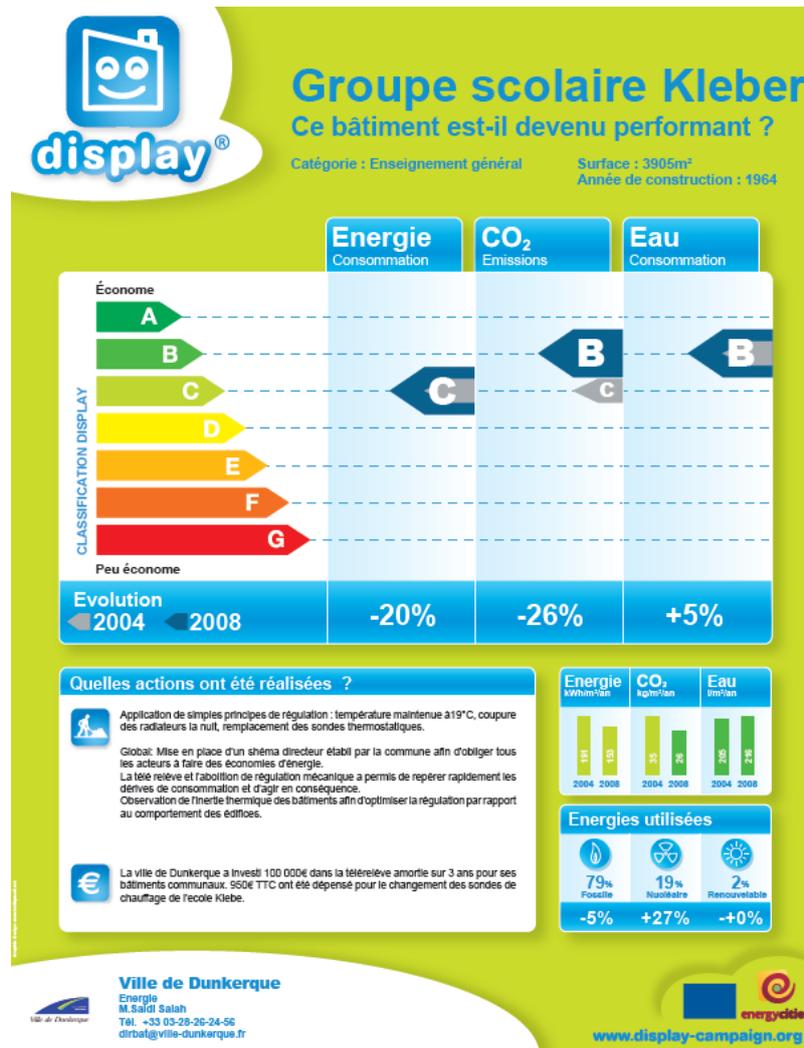


Figure 3 – Display® building statistics poster showing the results of renovations

5. PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO A USER-FRIENDLY SOFTWARE

To evaluate the energy performance of a building requires a specific scientific knowledge as well as the access to building data. The easy use of software, translatable in all European languages, to establish the energy rating of a building enables a wider appropriation of the issue by buildings managers and a more important use of energy certificates, particularly in smaller cities not having energy departments.

Display helped national recognition in Hungary after fifteen years of local effort. While politicians and experts were hesitating about the ways to fulfil the requirements of the EPBD,

the town of **Nyíregyháza (HU)** used Display to make the energy performance of their buildings public. The exhibition of the first poster in Hungary was a big success that led to a 20 minute report on national television. In Nyíregyháza, other institutions competed to have their own Display labels and people were finally starting to talk about energy. Due to their long history of energy efficiency work and their excellent local campaign with schools, Nyíregyháza was well positioned to advise the national government on energy certificates for public buildings. Thanks to their pioneering work, a deal has been struck to make Display free for all local authorities in Hungary.

6. PROMOTE A CORPORATE IDENTITY FOR THE COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

On the European level, the Display® campaign can be recognised thanks to its smiling blue logo, as well as the similar design of the energy certificate. Besides, it is important to keep a common theme that the public identifies and becomes familiar with.

With the objective to create a common and attractive branding, **Bristol (GB)** developed the Green Finger superhero. The City created various original communication materials based on Green Finger. With well over 6,000 people subscribed to their weekly newsletter and access to the city's mailing list of over 182,000 homes, external information distribution is widespread.

7. CONTINUALLY INFORM BUILDINGS USERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The one-time display of an energy certificate is not enough to sustain a continuous effort among building users and the general public. Therefore, Displayer cities highlighted the need to regularly update the energy certificate. Besides, constant communication on building energy performance has to be carried out to keep citizens involved.

In **Pamplona (ES)**, a vast amount of public events have been organised. Books, leaflets, bags, solar kits and a new dynamic Display poster, made the material more appealing and lively. A letter signed by the City's Mayor sent to each staff member showed the authority's commitment. When results have been achieved, a "one poster, one ceremony" strategy is then followed to communicate and educate the users of each building where a Display Poster was delivered. In addition to this multitude of communication activities the poster was adapted by adding a new space to add monthly advice. This added dynamism and more interest from the audience.

8. ATTRACT PUBLIC MEDIA COVERAGE AND DISSEMINATE

Media coverage is an essential catalyst that helps proliferate the concept of building energy performance. A large number of Display cities used their municipal newspapers and newsletters to communicate their activities internally and externally.

For any local authority the ultimate media aim is local or National television. In **Kaunas (LT)** their campaign was covered on national television allowing the subject of energy certificates to reach a wider audience. This served as the differentiating element to the campaign, and fostered major interest from the public.

9. CLUB TOGETHER (WORK IN PARTNERSHIP)

Improving building energy performance requires a coordinated and shared effort. As such, Display cities have fostered networking through district meetings, workshops, locally but also

with other municipalities, that enabled participants to share ideas, experiences and mutual learning.

Under the leadership of the local energy agency, 29 towns from the **Pays de Rennes (FR)** launched a joint Display® campaign that valorised their communication resources. Replication in each community was achieved through the creation of an “ambassadors” network, in charge of the execution of strategies for reducing energy, communication activities, and organisation of Display days. This joint venture allowed the small towns to be part of a collective environmental education initiative. The commitment of the campaign’s actors accompanied by original communication material and events has included (so far) 61% of the public building stock of the participant towns, showing the interest and advantages of pooling their resources.

10. LEAD BY EXAMPLE AND PREPARE COMPETITIONS

Competitions and rewards are significant ways for involving citizens. High profile ceremonies add visibility to the activities, encourage participation and facilitate their replication.

In 2007, a successful challenge between schools in **Salerno (IT)**, “Playing the Savings Game,” involved 4,000 students. Awareness activities took place in the schools, such as Display poster exhibitions, “paper recycling” contest, site visits and conferences. Salerno Energia and other services companies developed competitions for the community and financed the prizes. A partnership with the local television station allowed for broadcasting space for the local campaign’s videos. In 2010, Salerno used modern media in the form of television and a video competition to keep the school children interested.

CONCLUSIONS

COMMUNICATION

When it comes to producing energy certificates in public buildings the role of communication is critical as these buildings are rarely sold or rented. Thus there needs to be transparency from the public sector i.e. they display an energy certificate to allow for the public to create its own “market force” to stimulate change. In addition public pressure is not going to be created only if they see an energy certificate once. Furthermore, greater understanding is required of who is the public – and how all building users can make a difference, both great and small to the buildings they occupy and visit. De Montfort University’s (DMU) research found that the average movement of the buildings showing Display® posters is higher than those that have not displayed (Figure 4). In addition DMU proved that the average movement of the buildings that have carried out communication campaign is higher than those buildings that have no communication campaign (Figure 5).

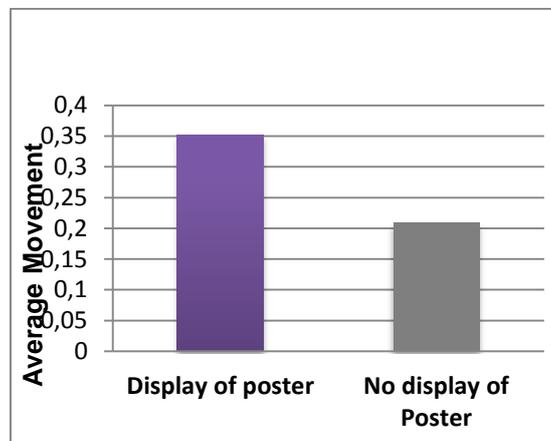


Figure 4 – Proof of movement towards class A for buildings that use Display!

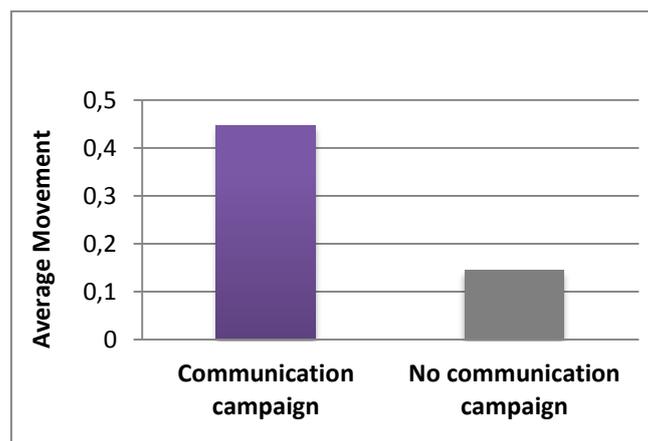


Figure 5 – Communication campaigns give extra value

Dynamic and participative local communication campaigns are thus required to allow them to understand the importance of efficient buildings and ultimately be linked to the overall objectives of the EPBD – improving the energy performance of buildings in Europe.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Thanks to the Display® Campaign local authorities continue to be at the forefront of Energy Certification and go beyond the EPBD recast requirements as they organise original and dynamic local communication campaigns to encourage local citizens to be involved in the energy consumption reduction of public buildings in Europe. The success of these local campaigns is due to the creativity and originality of each local authority. Many of the Display® Campaign cities have already signed the Covenant of Mayors and are using Display as one key action in their 2020 Sustainable Energy Action Plan thus leading to a reduction of at least 20% in the CO₂ emissions.

A CREATIVE AND PARTICIPATIVE BOTTOM UP PROCESS

The transpositions of directives are often very “top down” or centralised. It is very important to note that the structures involved in actually carrying out directives on “the ground” be involved in a bottom up participative process that is not solely a technical and administrative process but involves creativity. The Display® Campaign provided a chance for many local authorities to prepare for the EPBD and even go beyond the expectations of the EPBD.

It should also be stressed that national governments and local authorities be encouraged to work together and that **networking processes** at all public administration levels be supported. To do this they need the support of the European Commission.

DISPLAY CAMPAIGN CITIES AT YOUR SERVICE

The final message is do not recreate the wheel! Display® can provide the EU with the opportunity to introduce an already tried and tested scheme at the European scale. Display® Campaign participants **are more than ready to help their Countries/States in the implementation of the current EPBD Directive and prepare them for the challenges of the recast. They feel that with their experience in the only existing pan-European Campaign, they are in a unique position to offer advice to the Commission in the development of the voluntary common European Union certification for the energy performance of non-residential buildings.** They are convinced that the European Union certification be developed using a participatory and bottom up process and that the system of Users Clubs meetings both at a National and European level are the best way for local authorities to meet and discuss their experiences. At these meetings it is very important that the people responsible for the transposition of the EPBD are present and that local authority representatives are represented by elected members, communication departments and technicians.

As this voluntary common European Union certification will be placed alongside the national system it is also felt that the Concerted Action could be used to harmonise the national certification system and especially improve the communication aspect of certificates in existing public buildings. Here once again the experience of the Display Campaign could be used. The recast of the Directive could also provide the opportunity for Member States to harmonise their certification systems as when they are obliged to make changes imposed by the recast they will be able to make broader scale changes too.

ANNEX I – THE DISPLAY CAMPAIGN – A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE

A SEED PLANTED IN 2001

In Energy Cities’ opinion (adopted on the 9th of October 2001) on the proposal for a Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings [COM(2001) 226 final 2001/0098 (COD)], the association insisted on “the necessity for those in charge of public buildings to set an example by Displaying their own energy performance”

Energy Cities suggested that:

- “without waiting for the Directive to be passed, municipalities start to Display the energy performance of their buildings frequented by the general public,
- the experience of our network be used by the Commission to set up comprehensive and meaningful indicators for the citizens.”

With the above in mind in 2001 Energy Cities submitted the first Display project proposal to the European Commission (DG ENV) under the “Community framework for co-operation to promote sustainable urban development”. This project was accepted and the 30-month pilot phase started in January 2003 and the public Display Campaign launched in April 2004. The pilot phase involved the combined effort of 20 pilot local authorities in 18 countries and four additional technical and scientific experts.

Since 2005 the Campaign has been co-financed by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy - Europe Programme. From 2005 to 2007 under the project title "Towards Class A" with the following four new partners:

- The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- The Architects’ Council of Europe (ACE)
- The European Association of the Conservation of Energy (EuroACE)
- The Center for Energy Efficiency - Bulgaria (EnEffect)

Since 2008 it is *C*ommunicate *Y*our *B*uildings *E*nergy *R*ating (CYBER) Display with 16 partners including De Montfort University, EuroACE, 7 cities, 4 local energy agencies and the Healthy Cities Czech Republic network.

The objective of the European Display® Campaign was and is to accelerate the Directive’s implementation and provide European municipalities with an opportunity to take a strategic approach - and be one step ahead. The Display® Campaign is a voluntary scheme designed via a networking process involving municipal energy experts from towns and cities across Europe. It has provided local authorities with a rare opportunity to contribute to the development of an EU-wide toolkit used at the local level, to implement a European Directive. As a result, something pragmatic and appropriate for municipal managers has been created: this being the Display poster(s), the calculation tool and the unique extra – local communication campaigns to encourage behaviour change.

The Display poster design has been reviewed several times via a creative and participative process involving communication experts and local energy managers. It is the attempt to express the 7 recommendation for a building energy certificate into an eye-catching and communicative poster. It is a simple and colourful poster and has the “Towards a Class A buildings” section that encourages action from building users, managers and the public. The

poster (available in 28 European languages) in the form of a high quality PDF file is produced annually using an easy to use calculation tool. The tool also allows municipal building managers to monitor the progress of their building stock and they can produce Display posters for all building sizes.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY END OF MARCH 2011

Today over 460 local or district authorities and 35 private companies have created 31,000 Display posters for nearly 15,000 buildings and are committed to communicate their buildings' performances. There is a database of over 100 "shining examples" of local communication campaigns and technical measures to improve one's buildings performances.

Since 2006, 36 cities from 16 countries have taken part in the Towards Class A Award "celebrating" original local communication campaigns. A Gallery of winners has been produced to share the exploits of over 20 of these participants. Top tips for each city are available in an attractive poster format as well as via a short video ([http://www.display-campaign.org/ab 844 959](http://www.display-campaign.org/ab_844_959)).

National Display Users Clubs are now active in over 5 European Countries and in France and Switzerland they have been active for more than four years.

ANNEX II – MORE ABOUT THE EPBD PROCESS

“for a Directive to reach the implementation phase it takes between one fifth and one quarter of an average working lifetime!” Energy Cities (2004)

On the 4th of January 2003, the European Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) was adopted, after a lively discussion at all levels and with overwhelming support from Member States and the European Parliament, on the 16th of December 2002 and entered into force.

All Member States had a period of three years in order to build up relevant systems and measures to transpose and implement the requirements. On the 4th of January 2006, the minimum requirements for energy performance were legally binding in Member States, energy certificates were required and inspections for heating and cooling devices organised under an established system.

“The status of implementation on this day, the well-known 4 January 2006 deadline, is however far beyond our most pessimistic expectations. A scenario where the Member States with their plans fully ready could be counted on just a few fingers of a single hand never crossed our minds.” Eduardo Maldonado (Concerted Action coordinator)

In reality Member States found it very difficult to transpose the EPBD. To support EU countries in this task, the Concerted Action (CA) EPBD was launched in January 2005 jointly by the European Commission and the Member States, promoting dialogue and exchange of best practice amongst them. An intensely active forum of national authorities from initially 23 and now 29 countries was created. It focuses on finding common approaches to the most effective implementation of this EU legislation. One of the important products of the CA was the production of monthly information Webzines that tracked the progress of the EPBD implementation.

In January 2006, the EPBD Buildings Platform was created as an information service for helping the implementation of the Buildings' Directive (in 2009 this was “repackaged” to become BUILD UP).

One month later the first real figures were revealed:

“The transposition of the EPBD is a real challenge for the Member States. At the end of February 2006, 3 countries had notified full transposition and 7 countries partial transposition. All 10 countries requested an extension for certification and inspection, most up to the maximum 3 years, others are phasing in gradually.” (CA-Webzine 11)

In December 2006 the story had not changed:

Already in February 2007 even before a handful of Member States had transposed the EPBD, a revision was on the books “The Energy Action Plan, recently released by the European Commission in January 2007, calls for updating the EPBD in 2009.” (Source CA-Webzine 22).

In January 2008 the first Member State was found guilty for not implementing the EPBD:

“The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has condemned Greece for failing to transpose the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive into national legislation. This is the first country to be found guilty by the ECJ for not implementing the EPBD on time although other Member States also face legal action.” Source Building Platform e-Newsletter #019- January 2008).

In Spring 2008, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the recasting of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which closed on the 20th of June 2008.

On the 18th of June 2010 the recast of the Directive on the energy performance of buildings (EPBD) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union. The recast is framed by new considerations on the relation between the building sector and the European objective to reduce by 20 % the Union’s energy consumption by 2020.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE RECAST

The recast may have added a lot more responsibility to local authorities via the following:

- Acknowledging the leading and exemplary role of the public sector in the field of energy performance, the recast recommends that the national plans:
 - o Set more ambitious targets for the buildings occupied by public authorities,
 - o Provide measures to support public authorities to implement the recommendations included in the energy performance certificate as soon as feasible.
 - o Involve local authorities on planning issues, the development of programmes to provide information, training and awareness-raising, and on the implementation of this Directive at national or regional level.
- Article 9, “Nearly zero-energy buildings”, says that “after 31 December 2018, new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities are nearly zero-energy buildings”.
- Article 13 confirms 500m² as the minimum area that a public visited building should have to publicly display its energy performance certificate and that this value will be reduced to 250m² from 9th July, 2015.

However it is article 11 that is of the greatest interest to Display participants: “The Commission shall, by 2011, in consultation with the relevant sectors, adopt a voluntary common European Union certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings. That measure shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 26(2). Member States are encouraged to recognise or use the scheme, or use part thereof by adapting it to national circumstances.”

www.display-campaign.org

Coordination

Energy Cities | Secretariat
2, chemin de Palente
F-25000 Besançon
Tel. : +33 3 81 65 36 80
Fax.: +33 3 81 50 73 51
E-mail: info@energy-cities.eu

www.energy-cities.eu

Energy Cities | Brussels Office
1, square de Meeûs
B-1000 Brussels
Tel. : +32 2 504 78 60
Fax : +32 2 504 78 61

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