

## Public building labelling

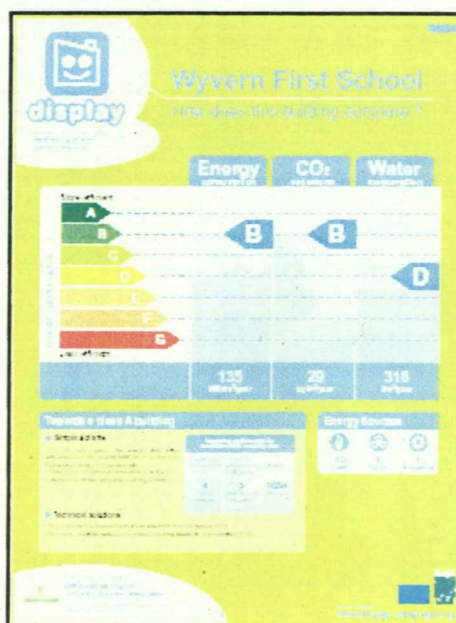
The European Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings<sup>74</sup> is to be integrated into all Member States' national legislation by January 2006. For buildings over 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> occupied by public authorities and by institutions providing public services to a large number of persons, an energy certificate not older than 10 years is to be placed in a prominent place clearly visible to the public.<sup>75</sup> The European Union is also giving consideration to further non-energy related environmental performance requirements to complement Directive 2002/91 such as indoor air quality, accessibility, noise levels, comfort, environmental quality of the materials and the life-cycle cost of the buildings.<sup>76</sup> Ahead of this, Denmark and a number of European municipal authorities have introduced building labelling that includes information on water consumption. For instance the French non-governmental organisation – Energie-Cités – is conducting a Display campaign.<sup>77</sup> The campaign encourages European municipalities to display a poster in municipal buildings that are open to the public, providing information on the performance of buildings in terms of primary energy use, water consumption and carbon dioxide emissions, as illustrated in Figure 26. The Danish Energy Authority (DEA) has also developed a comprehensive labelling scheme for small buildings including houses.<sup>78</sup> Water consumption by households is audited. This scheme is discussed further in chapter 9. The performance of the DEA-building itself is displayed in the public reception area.

The Committee believes that that labelling of public buildings is a direct way for government to demonstrate its commitment to water efficient buildings. Therefore, the Committee recommends that:

### Recommendation 8.6

The level of water consumption of Local and State Government buildings be displayed in prominent public areas. The data should include a reference point to enable the public to make an assessment of performance.

Figure 26: Poster from the Energie-Cités Display Campaign



Source: Energie-Cités, [www.energie-cites.org](http://www.energie-cites.org)

<sup>74</sup> The objective of the European Union Directive 2002/91 on the energy performance of buildings is to promote the improvement of the energy performance of buildings within the Community, taking into account outdoor climatic and local conditions, as well as indoor climate requirements and cost-effectiveness.

The Directive lays down requirements as regards:

- a) the general framework for a methodology of calculation of the integrated energy performance of buildings;
- b) the application of minimum requirements on the energy performance of new buildings;
- c) the application of minimum requirements on the energy performance of large existing buildings that are subject to major renovation;
- d) energy certification of buildings; and
- e) regular inspection of boilers and of air-conditioning systems in buildings and in addition an assessment of the heating installation in which boilers are more than 15 years old.

Source: European Union Directive 2002/91 on the energy performance of buildings

<sup>75</sup> Ibid, Article 7(3)

<sup>76</sup> European Union, 2004, Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment, section 2.3.3

<sup>77</sup> Mr C Frering, Project Manager, Energie-Cités, Paris, meeting, 9 February 2005

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