

Austria Case study – Improving Energy Efficiency of apartment blocks in Vienna



Country	Austria
Sector	Buildings
Year	2016
Narrative description	<p>The measure was carried out for an apartment block built in 1974. The heating system was renewed in 2008 and the windows replaced. However, due to the age of the building, major maintenance work was still required. The roof and the façade had been damaged and need reinstating.</p> <p>The measures recommended for these buildings were roof, external wall and basement ceiling insulation. Two packages including these measures and the maintenance work were presented and discussed at the residents' general assembly. Through the initial vote, the owners decided that they would like the maintenance work to include energy efficiency measures. A further vote took place a few months later to decide whether to install top floor and the basement ceiling only, or in addition, to include external wall insulation. It was decided to install the top floor and basement ceiling insulation only.</p> <p>The projected annual savings amount to 17.9 t CO₂ and 76,000 kWh</p> <p>The final investment costs are unknown. The measure is expected to decrease the annual fuel bill by EUR 4,180 for the whole block.</p>
Responsible authority / organisation	The project was carried out by e7 Energie Markt Analyse GmbH and H2020 project Low Energy Apartment Future (LEAF), utilising federal funds for environmental improvements in Austria
Relevant legal basis	The measure was eligible for the "Sanierungsscheck" a subsidy programm for private citizens as part of the "Umweltfoerderung im Inland - UFI" which is part of the implementing measures of Art. 7 EED.

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Policy Type	one-time direct subsidy
Governance Level/ Target audience	National
Objectives	Combine energy efficiency improvement of the building at the same time as carrying out required maintenance work.
Summary of reasons for success	"This case study demonstrates the significant energy saving potential for these typical 1970 's apartment blocks with non-existent or poor insulation on the façade, roof and basement ceiling. In many cases, the windows or heating system have already been renewed, resulting in building insulation appearing less cost effective. Available funding helped to persuade the residents to agree to implementing insulation to some extent. This decision was enabled by the mechanisms of resident meetings and voting."
Replication potential	The subsidy scheme "Sanierungsscheck" has been continued since 2009 in Austria. The post-war building stock of the 50s until the 70s shaped entire neighborhoods and represents a major structural and financial challenge.
Relevant website	http://www.lowenergyapartments.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/LEAF_Case_study_showcase_Austria_D8.4_Feb16.pdf