

PRESS RELEASE



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UK consortium to develop building energy certificates to meet European Directive

Under a new EU Directive due to be ratified at this month's Council of Ministers meeting, all buildings, new and existing, will be required to have an accredited "energy" certificate or label which will provide information about the building in terms of its energy efficiency and carbon emissions performance.

The EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive is a cornerstone of the European Climate Change Programme. The "energy label" for buildings is set to be the first outcome to have a tangible impact in business and public sectors. Buildings occupied by public authorities or frequented by the general public and over 1,000 square metres in floor area will also be required to display the energy label in a prominent place in a public area.

All buildings will need to obtain an energy certificate when they are constructed, sold or rented out. This energy label will grade the building in terms of its energy efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions performance. It will provide existing and prospective owners, occupiers and managers with information that could help influence occupancy and leasing considerations and decisions. Poor energy performance in a large building (15,000 sq m) can easily equate to an extra £100,000 per year in energy costs.

ESD is responsible for delivering a specification for this new energy label in the office sector, working together with partners in seven pilot countries: UK, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and Greece. The project (called Europrosper) is funded by the EU SAVE programme and various other sources in each country. The UK co-funding is by The Carbon Trust.

Robert Cohen, Principal Energy Consultant at ESD and manager of the Europrosper project, is clear on the major benefits of this new European Buildings Directive.

"This is the first legislation to tackle energy consumption in existing buildings directly. The Energy Label will help occupiers of a building to understand its energy performance and enable them to make more informed and valued decisions about the management and improvement of the space they occupy and when seeking new space. It will also encourage building owners and landlords to pursue more energy efficient solutions as part of their building procurement, improvement and management programmes."



(Europrosper contd.)

The Europrosper building energy certification project is managed by ESD, Europe's leading climate change and sustainable energy company. The UK consortium also includes William Bordass Associates, Target Energy Services Ltd. and Building Use Studies Ltd., and will be working in partnership with the Association for the Conservation of Energy (ACE) and Environmental Governance. The project started in April 2002 and will co-ordinate and develop building energy certification and its accreditation requirements across the designated countries for completion by early 2004. The project will also create self-certification and web based assessment options and training courses to produce accredited assessors.

For more information on Europrosper visit the project website at www.europrosper.org or contact:

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Editors Notes

1) ESD

Energy for Sustainable Development (ESD) Ltd is one of Europe's leading climate change companies with an unrivalled reputation for developing and delivering effective sustainable energy solutions to commercial, public and community clients in UK, European and international markets.

ESD's expertise extends across the climate change, carbon management and sustainable energy spectrum. Its activities include market and technologies assessment, policy and market infrastructure development, sustainable energy strategy and design, sustainable buildings, carbon management services and international climate change project development.

ESD has a specialist UK staff of 50 with offices in Bulgaria and Kenya and affiliates in every European country and in all major commercial regions of the globe. ESD won the Queens Award for Export Achievement in 1998.

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2) Association for the Conservation of Energy (ACE)

The Association for the Conservation of Energy was formed in 1981 by a number of major companies active within the energy conservation industry.

Its aim is to encourage a positive national awareness of the need for and benefits of energy conservation, to help establish sensible and consistent national policies and programmes, and to increase investment in all appropriate energy saving measures.

For more information visit the ACE website at www.ukace.org.

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3) Environmental Governance

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