



Some facts about Spain and its building stock:

- **ENERGY CONSUMPTION:** 30% of all primary energy consumed in Spain is in buildings (it averages 40% in EU). The distribution in share of gross energy available in Spain was around 45% oil/petroleum, 20% gas, 12% nuclear, and 16% renewables in 2021. ([Eurostat](#))
- **PERFORMANCE OF THE STOCK:** Nearly 85% of existing buildings are rated E, F, or G based on energy consumption. 76% of the stock is residential, of which 58% is multi-family buildings ([EC study 2019](#))
- **RENOVATION RATE:** Spain's annual renovation rate is below 1%, despite the annual number of renovated buildings increasing by 10% between 2017 and 2019. A 3% renovation rate is deemed necessary to decarbonise the sector in time to meet adopted climate goals.
- **ENERGY IMPORTS:** Spain relies entirely on foreign gas imports (notably to fuel buildings). Spain has reduced its overall gas imports by 10.2 % in the first 7 months of the year in comparison to the same period last year ([Cores](#), July 2023). Reducing foreign energy dependence is a key objective.
- **ENERGY POVERTY:** In 2022, 17.1% of Spain's population was unable to keep their home adequately warm ([Eurostat](#)) (it averages 9.3% in the EU, up from 6.9% the year before)
- **ENERGY SUBSIDIES:** Spain spent €40.8bn (3.4% of Spain's GDP) last winter to shield households and firms from the energy crisis ([Bruegel](#), Sep 2021 - Jan 2023)
- **FUNDING ALLOCATED IN RRF:** In its National Recovery and Resilience Plan, it is worth highlighting that Spain allocated a budget specifically to renovation and urban regeneration (at least €6.8bn, ~10%, mostly residential) ([Renovate2Recover Study](#)).
- **FUNDING ALLOCATED IN MFF:** Spain has programmed €2.24bn for renovation and energy efficiency projects through its 2021-2027 cohesion funds (about 10% of Spain's funding) - in absolute terms this is the second highest volume of funds after Poland ([Cohesion Report 2023](#))
- **BUILDINGS AND THE ECONOMY:** An average of 479,000 jobs were maintained by building renovations between 2012 and 2016 ([EC study 2019](#))

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Some information about the Poblado Dirigido de Orcasitas Renovation Project:

This is a citizen-led renovation project in a development of 107 tower blocks from the 1970s in the Madrid suburb of Poblado Dirigido de Orcasitas. The Residents Association called on Madrid municipality to renovate their crumbling buildings. Today 40 towers have been renovated, 26 towers are under renovation, and the rest should be completed by 2026.



Some suggestions for the building stock in the EU:

- The **Renovation Wave** set the target of renovating 35 million buildings in the EU by 2030. The EU is legally bound to be climate neutral by 2050.
- **Public funds** alone will not be sufficient to meet the renovation needs - financing schemes leveraging private funds must also be devised.
- **Worst-performing buildings** are mostly the coldest and/or hottest homes where the poorest people are suffering from the highest energy bills. Existing buildings in EPC Class G consume, on average, 10 times as much energy as an A class building. The available public funding should be channelled to those who need it the most, especially in worst-performing buildings.
- A **strong regulatory framework** is key to providing a clear direction and unlocking private financing. The Buildings Directive (EPBD) currently being debated is the last missing element of the Fit-for-55 Package. It must become an important regulatory driver to deliver energy efficient buildings and healthy homes with affordable energy bills.
- Last winter's **energy price crisis** is a consequence of our heavy dependence on imports of foreign energy products. Renovating the building stock will make businesses and citizens in the EU more **resilient to future price shocks** and will contribute to improve the quality of life for millions of Europeans.
- Providing **technical assistance** and increased **communication** to raise awareness about the multiple benefits of energy renovation will be crucial to boost the rate and depth of renovation.
- The construction sector is often referred to as **Europe's biggest jobs program**, as it employs 10% of the EU workforce (over 95% of which in SMEs). Buildings are also a major contributor to **greenhouse gas emissions** (emitting 36% emissions in the EU alone) that is driving climate change.
- **Action on buildings is needed**, whether you look at it from the social, energy dependency or economic angle - and regardless of your political colour. **Failure to act would be irresponsible.**
- **President von der Leyen's words** at last year's [Renovate Europe Day](#) were correct: "My message is: let's accelerate, let's put massive funds into renovation. For it is one of the best achievements we can make at this moment".

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